

# Jesus Came for YOU: So Love as He Loves

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 23, 2012

1 John 4:7-12

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

## 1. GOD IS LOVE

(v. 8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

From Greek word “Agape”:

- costly love
- selfless love
- to love without condition
- to love without regard for love returned
- based on high regard for an individuals inherent value

## 2. GOD SENT JESUS BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU

(v. 9) This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

## 3. GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE ON THE CROSS

(v. 10) This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

“Agape”:

- an active love (“Love is a Verb” - Steven Covey)

Romans 5:8

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

True love is NOT a feeling.

If you love someone you must say it and demonstrate it.

## 4. GOD CALLS US TO LOVE AS HE LOVES

(v. 7) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

(v. 11-12) Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Loving others is NOT our way to “earn” eternal life.

Rather, it is our response to our loving Savior who has already purchased our eternal life by His sacrificial death on our behalf.

Now what is left for us to do?

Gal 5:6

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The best way to love one another, is to share Christ!

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. OFFER THEM CHRIST.

Who is God calling you to LOVE today?