

God with Us: Got Love?

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 21, 2014

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 THE DEFINITION OF LOVE

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

Agape:

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

2. JESUS IS LOVE IN FLESH

(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.

John 3:16

"For God so LOVED the world that he GAVE his one and only Son, SO THAT whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

3. THE CROSS IS THE PROOF OF GOD'S LOVE

(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.

Romans 5:8

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

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...

4. OUR LOVE VALIDATES GOD'S LOVE IN US

(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.