

*Morning Sermon Outline*  
*February 14, 2016, 1 John 4:7-11*  
*“Love Is Of God”*

I. *Threads of God’s love are seen woven in nature –*

1. *He provides for His creatures, including human beings –*

<sup>10</sup> **He sends the springs into the valleys, They flow among the hills.**

<sup>11</sup> **They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. <sup>12</sup> By them the birds of the heavens have their home; They sing among the branches. <sup>13</sup> He waters the hills from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.**

<sup>14</sup> **He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, <sup>15</sup> And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man’s heart. (Psalm 104:10-15 NKJ)**

2. *He rains on both the just and unjust –*

**“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:44-45**

3. *He gives animals their loving and protective instincts -*

*Our Lord Jesus compares His love for the people of Jerusalem to the care a hen gives to her chicks -*

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! (Matthew 23:37 NKJ)**

4. *The Hebrew word for stork means “kindly mother” – Job 39:13*

A. *Both the male and female share in child rearing duties, stork parents will die for and with their chicks.*

B. *Even alligators protect their young, sing mating / love songs, rub noses, male alligators even make bubbles on their backs to attract the female etc...God has programmed these loving instincts into His creatures to encourage their multiplication – and to help them survive -*

<sup>22</sup> **And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” (Genesis 1:22 NKJ)**

5. *Not all animals have these loving instincts Job 39:13-17 contrasts the stork to an ostrich -*

**“The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork’s? <sup>14</sup> For she leaves her eggs on the ground, And warms them in the dust; <sup>15</sup> She forgets that a foot may crush them, Or that a wild beast may break them. <sup>16</sup> She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern, <sup>17</sup> Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding. (Job 39:13-17 NKJ)**

*There are clearly aspects of nature that show the impact of sin; they show God’s judgment and wrath as much as love. Romans 11:22 speaks of the goodness and severity of God, we see this even in nature!*

IV.

V.

II. *Love is part of our humanity, as we are created in God’s image –*

II.

**Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26-27 NKJ)**

III.

**“... for God is love.” (1 John 4:8 NKJ)**

1. *Jesus Himself points to “love” even among the ungodly –*

<sup>46</sup> **“For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> “And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? (Matthew 5:46-47 NKJ)**

2. *Our capacity to love is a God-given gift – Our world speaks of LOVE in terms of “chemistry” and science can point to certain hormones and chemicals that increase in the brain when a person is “in love.” But who, WHO created this wonderful chemical mix*

*God created the chemical mix, the phenylethylamine, the dopamine and the norepinephrine that RESULT in that wonderful feeling of being “in LOVE”*

These chemicals make even non-believers:

- Make a relationship a priority
- Make another person's need a priority
- Make us more patient
- Make us positive and forgiving
- Make us joyful
- Help us overcome great obstacles
- Make us show LOVE creatively and constantly -

3. However, ungodly "love" also is impacted by sin and without Christ's influence degenerates into lust, adultery, idolatry, etc...

Hollywood typically portraits love in this sinful way, *The Bridges of Madison County* --- a movie that glorifies adultery as true love -- **Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (Romans 12:9 NKJ)**

### III. Love is presented in the Bible as a cultivated "fruit of the Spirit" --

1. As a fruit of the Spirit, love is opposite of the LUSTS of the flesh--  
<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.  
<sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.  
<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.  
<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,  
<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,  
<sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.  
<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:16-23 NKJ)

2. The curse brought about by sin included strained relationships and thorns and thistles in general --

<sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." (Genesis 3:16 NKJ)

<sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying,

"You shall not eat of it": "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. (Genesis 3:17-18 NKJ)

*Like the cursed ground our hearts naturally bring forth thorns and thistles, love must be planted, cultivated, worked with, and cared for like a flower or fruit!*

### Love is defined and described - in the Scripture --

**Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NKJ)**

1. These words define and describe love, in terms of who we are and what we do, even in an intentional way --- we can love in a First Corinthians 13 even without the FEELINGS / chemicals. When we love in the way prescribed in 1 Corinthians 13, we do not fall into the feelings of LOVE --- but we stir those GOOD FEELINGS!

2. According to the Bible Love and the 10 Commandments / God's LAW go together!

**Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Romans 13:10 NKJ)**

3. Direction in regard to the priority of Love is given in Scripture --  
<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."  
<sup>38</sup> "This is the first and great commandment.  
<sup>39</sup> "And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
<sup>40</sup> "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40 NKJ)

4. Perfect Love is shown to us by Jesus Christ --

<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.  
<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.  
<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:7-11 NKJ)

*Arnold Brevick*