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Morning Service

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God is Love

The Gospel in the Love of God

“God is love.”

Christians and non-Christians alike will agree on this statement. So why is there so much derision? It all depends on theology. Theology is what someone thinks about God and everyone is a theologian. The derision comes from where one's theology is based. So how do we define love and what is the Love of God?

There has not been an attribute of God that has been more abused than the Love of God. As Christians the Word of God is working in us and creating Holy affections so we can be conformed to express love and hatred for the things God loves and hates. It's impossible to express genuine true love without expressing hate for the opposite of what we love. We are to hate the things that God hates and love the things that God loves. Scripture tells us that God is love but is also an all-consuming God, a God of wrath and judgment. God will consume all that is against Him, all that he hates.

John's epistle is a message of assurance. He gives us tests that we as believers can use to see if we are acting like true sons and daughters of God. John uses the tests of Truth, Righteousness, and Love of others to show us exactly what the Love of God is. It's not a matter of God sending or giving love to his children. The Scriptures tell us that God is love. Love, true Biblical love, is the evidence of God in us.

References

1 John 4:7-12 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) 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. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 3:11-14 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; (12) not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. (13) Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. (14) We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; (29) for our God is a consuming fire.

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 2

I. There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will, for His own glory most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him; and withal, most just, and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.