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WHERE IS LOVE?

I John 4:10

Lk 18:14: He who exalts himself will be humbled...

Take that one step further....

Think about your love for God, for Jesus:
Growing? Scale of 1-10?

The **problem** is in **thinking** about our love for Jesus!

Contrast **Peter** and **John**:

Peter

Thought much of his love for Jesus

- Matt 19:27
- John 13:3-9
- 13:37
- Matt 26:31-35

Result: Matt 26: 3x denied he even knew Him!

John

Never speaks of his love for Jesus. Only of Jesus' love for him:
5x:

- John 13:23
- 19:26
- 20:2
- 21:7, 20

Why? Tells us in **I John 4:10**

Several references to God's love in this short letter:

Egs: 3:1, 16; 4:7, 8-9

Then **I John 4:10** is the heart of the matter

This is love:

NOT that we loved God,

But that He loved us,

And sent His Son as a PROPITIATION for our sins

John does not think about his love for God, but only about God's love for him.

And the heart of that love is sending His Son as a **propitiation** for John's sins.

So what in the world is a **propitiation**?

Most simply: it is an offering to **appease someone's**

_____.

- Child's flowers to mom for muddying her floor
- Husband's perfume for forgetting their anniversary
- But what can you offer to an angry God for spitting in His face and ignoring His loving commands?

Only one offering will do: the innocent blood of His own Son, because death is the necessary penalty.

God's love turned away His own wrath so only love is left for you after the death of His Son. That is the only love worth thinking and speaking about.

Be clear on this: God does not love you because He saved you. He saved you because He loved you, from all eternity (Eph 1:4-8)

And how great is that love? John 17:23: the measure of its quality is the Father's love for His own Son!!

So he goes on: I John 4:11-12, 16, 19.

Result: John was the only disciple at the foot of the cross (John 19:25-27).

John was the first of the 12 to the empty tomb.

John was a faithful pastor for decades, into exile.

Do not waste your time thinking about your love—or lack of it—for Jesus. Rather think about His love for you

Contemplate Him and you will find yourself changed:

II Cor 3:18.

That is the heart of the Gospel.