

Colleyville Presbyterian Church

1 John 4:7-21

May 28, 2023

*7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have 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 ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

*13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.** 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. **18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.** 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

Basic argument: God (F, S, HS), is love. God's love for us is shown in Christ. God's love for us leads us to love one another.

Leithart: "To say that God is love assumes that God is triune. God can be love only because he is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To be genuine love, love requires an object, a beloved, an 'other.' Love is love only if it is directed out, only if it seeks the good of Another. Allah cannot *be* love. Neither can the deist God of the eighteenth century, whom many Christians have confused with the God revealed in Jesus and the Bible. But the true God, the living God, the God revealed in Jesus and the Scriptures, *is* love. The true God lives in an eternal communion of perfect love and joy and peace, the Father loving the Son through the Spirit, and the Son returning love to the Father in the same Spirit. And because God is eternally and essentially love, he can love us with an eternal love. His love for us is the expression of his deepest character. God is not playing a role when he acts as our Father, our loving Bridegroom, the Spirit who is love. God is not adopting a pose or pretending. When God displays love, he is displaying himself. The Father loves us as his children because he has eternally loved a Son in the Spirit. The Son loves us as brothers because he has eternally loved his Father in the Spirit. The Spirit loves us because he has eternally been the bond of love between the Father and the Son. Loving 'another' is not a new experience when God created the world. It's an extension of the love that Father, Son, and Spirit have always had for one another." — See John 14:31, 17:22-26

Calvin: "By nature, indeed, we dread the presence of God, and that justly; for, as he is the Judge of the world, and our sins hold us guilty, death and hell must come to our minds whenever we think of God. Hence is that dread which I have mentioned, which makes men shun God as much as they can. But John says that the faithful do not fear, when mention is made to them of the last judgment, but that on the contrary they go to God's tribunal confidently and cheerfully, because they are assured of his paternal love. Every one, then, has made so much proficiency in faith, as he is well prepared in his mind to look forward to the day of judgment."

Calvin: “We are continually tormented until God delivers us from misery and anguish by the remedy of his own love towards us. The meaning is, that as there is nothing more miserable than to be harassed by continual inquietude, we obtain by knowing God’s love towards us the benefit of a peaceful calmness beyond the reach of fear. It hence appears what a singular gift of God it is to be favored with his love...It may, however, be asked, when does perfect love expel fear, for since we are endued with some taste only of divine love towards us, we can never be wholly freed from fear? To this I answer, that, though fear is not wholly shaken off, yet when we flee to God as to a quiet harbor, safe and free from all danger of shipwreck and of tempests, fear is really expelled, for it gives way to faith. Then fear is not so expelled, but that it assails our minds, but it is so expelled that it does not torment us nor impede that peace which we obtain by faith.”

Love One Another

Mark 12:30-31 - And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

John 15:12-14 - “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Romans 12:9-10 - Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 13:8-10 - Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

1 Corinthians 4:21 - What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 5:1-2 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 5:14 - Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.