**God’s Love**

***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. (1 John 4:7-16, ESV)*

God’s love was revealed in Jesus’ coming, in response to which we are called to love one another with the help of the Holy Spirit.

 Greetings in the Lord, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we talk today about one of the foundational truths of our spiritual life, which is love. God loved the world so much that He sent His Son to this world so that no one would be lost, but everyone would be saved[[1]](#footnote-1). This love that was reflected through Christ’s life was truly great. So, today we’re going to speak about love and our response to that Divine Love. The topic is an essential one, because the expression of God’s love needs to be clear within our minds, so that we are able to convey it to all that are looking for love. Again, the Advent of Jesus, His birth, was an expression of God’s love – and we are invited to love each other as an answer by the help of the Holy Spirit. Let’s see how we can better understand this truth and make it into something practical in our lives.

 Genuine love is Jesus’ Advent to this earth, to which God expects a response from every human being. We find the definition of love within the passage. In the Greek of the passage, the word “Agape” is used to denote a Divine, unconditional, sacrificial, saving love. John says that love is from God and that love is God Himself. Love is God’s deed of love toward us humans. Love is God’s work of sending the Spirit for our salvation. Love is the Father giving us a way to atone for our sins through Jesus Christ. In other words, God’s love is the salvation that happens thru Jesus. In response to that love, there’s a response expected from each of us. For example, to leave each other; if we do so, we then know the True God who sent His Son. We are expected to live in the Son; if we live immersed in Christ, that love is apparent within and among us (as the church). We are expected to respond to God’s love by bearing witness to others that God sent His Son as a Savior. We are called to live “in” God, believing in Jesus as God’s Son. We are called to live in Love as a lifestyle – so that God would live among and within us.

 For a Christian, love is like the foundation of a building. If that foundation is not stable, the building will always be in danger of collapse. If the foundation slab is solid, however, the storms will come, and the building will remain up.

 The love of God is one of our foundation stones. Without understanding that we see God’s greatest love in the coming of Jesus, our faith-concept remains imperfect. God’s goodness, patience, mercy, and wisdom all need the completing reality of Love. If we understand love as Jesus’ Presence, then we will be able to observe love in a much more spiritual way.

 Practically, our love expression is called to be like Jesus’ ministry. I’m not saying that we all have to be itinerant preachers. Rather our love can be expressed in lifting up those that are fallen; strengthening the weak; healing the sick; freeing the ones under the influence of evil; inviting the spiritual dry Christian back to true life or modeling spiritual life through our own personal relationship with God. If you want something to do to understand love better, go and love the one that feels rejected today and connect him or her to Jesus’ love. Go to someone and talk to them about Jesus, and what He has done in your own life. Or, go and hold the hand of the one grieving today for a certain loss. Go and bring someone economically challenged, take them somewhere warm, or extend a helping hand to the one that is have-not. If you want to love somebody, why don’t you go ahead and forgive that one that has sinned against you and tell him or her that you’re doing it because Jesus did the same for you.

 The ways to express a Godly love are many, and they are the right response to God’s Greatest expression of love, which is Jesus Christ in His Advent to the world.

 To know the practical love of God, just ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and pay attention to His promptings, following the reminders that you receive from the Word of God. As you serve in the Spirit in this way, you will better understand God’s love, who came was born humbly 2000 years ago.

 Genuine love is Jesus’ Advent, to which God expects a response from every human being.

 Finally, I join the Apostle in repeating his words[[2]](#footnote-2), “*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.”* The Lord bless you all, Amen.

1. Of course, saved by choosing to believe in Christ – Jesus did not give a universal pass to all of humanity by coming. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Which are really Jesus’ words… [↑](#footnote-ref-2)