

The Life of Love

Scripture: **1 John 4:7-8**

Series: **Doctrine & Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, September 27, 2015



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Our calling to love and ability to love are found in God. Christian love is the pursuit of one's good driven by affection.

Corraborating Texts

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Romans 12:10, Romans 13:8, Romans 5:6-8

Discussion Questions

1. Have you heard it said that love is an “action” and it doesn't matter if you feel affection? Perhaps we even believe or have believed this. Why are feelings of affection an essential part of love?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. How does this passage clarify what love truly is? [sacrifice without affection is meaningless]
3. Why does John say we are to love one another? [because love is from God] What is the connection here? (Note that loving “one another” in this passage is referring to loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, though of course we are also to love our neighbor, and love our enemies)
4. It is possible to love in this way—sacrificially and with affection—because we have been born again, and loving in this way is evidence of being born again. What is the connection between being “born of God” and the high standard of love to which we are called? Why is it that anyone who does not love does not know God (v. 8)?
5. We tend to not do very well at truly loving one another—feeling affection, sacrificing, encouraging one another with words. Where does the strength and ability to love come from? [Jesus loved everyone fully and perfectly. He not only died in our place, He also lived in our place and we are credited with His righteousness by faith and justified before God. We are to love one another and grow in our love, but when we fail, we look to our Savior who loved perfectly and forgives us.]
6. Knowing more clearly what genuine Christian love looks like, ask yourself: Who do I love? Do I love my coworkers? Do I love my neighbors? Do I love the Church?