



MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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The Glory of the Incarnation: Transforming Love

NOTES:

God, by His Very Nature, is Love

1 John 4:7 *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.*

God Fully Revealed His Loving Nature Through the Sending of Jesus, Securing Life and Forgiveness

1. God's love as seen in Jesus secures for his followers a new quality of life.

1 John 4:9 *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.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

2. God's love as seen in Jesus secures for his followers freedom from the penalty of sin.

1 John 4:10 *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.*

1 John 3:16a *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us...*

In Response to This, Followers of Jesus Naturally Act as Conduits of God's Love

1. By loving each other we reveal God to others.

1 John 4:11 *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.*

Just as Jesus revealed the love of God; as his body - so do we.

1 Cor. 12:27 *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it... 13:4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends.*

2. By loving each other we reveal the authenticity of our sonship to ourselves.

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.*

3. By loving each other sacrificially we extend the ministry of Jesus.

1 John 3:16 *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1) In what ways have you experienced sacrificial love (from parents, spouse, friends, etc.)? What impact did being loved in that way have on you?

2) Set aside a few moments this week to reflect on the magnitude of God's love as revealed in Jesus' birth, life, and death. In what ways has his great love transformed your life?

3) Identify a few people that may need some extra care or provision this Christmas season. In what practical ways can you sacrificially love them? Make a plan to intentionally express God's love through your actions towards them.

SONGS

**HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING
GOD SO LOVED
JESUS WE LOVE YOU
BEHOLD**

BUDGET

**Giving Last Week: \$48,480.38
Weekly Need: \$38,322.00**

**YTD Giving: \$1,608,270
YTD General Need: \$1,839,456**

Altamont Expansion Fund (12/4): \$201,138.98

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

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