

1 DNA 4 Love God (Culture)

1 John 4:7-21 Beloved let us love one another for Love is from God ...any one who does not love does not know God ...God sent his only son into the world so that we may live in him.

We want to build a culture around the vision of following Jesus, growing as believers and sharing our hope. Culture should shape who we are – stir us up to love and good works. So important that we are all committed as co-workers in building His church. Once we have the foundations of our vision in place we need to get practical and look at how we outwork Loving God as one of our values.

1.1 Understanding Gods Love

Love is an over-used word – what do you love ? We can use the word a thousand times a day – sometimes it doesn't hit us the way it is intended in the bible – especially about God. When it comes to the truth that God loves us - it can fail to land us with the impact – it is not like any other love that there is. Let us love one another – do you know that's how much God loves us? The bible is a love letter from God to us.

1.1.1 Love Notes –

You can write love notes or cards – these verse we read here are full of love notes from God to us. Have written down here some of the post-it-notes we could produce from this scripture

- i. Anyone who does not love does not know God
- ii. It is manifest in us that God sent His only son
- iii. In this is love – not that we loved God –but that he sent his son to be the propitiation of God
- iv. V12 no one has seen God – but we see that love if we love one-another
- v. V16 – we have come to know this love is for whoever abides in God
- vi. V19 – we love because he first loved us
- vii. Chapter 5 v2 By this we know we love the children of God when we love God and obey His commands
- viii. This is the love of God that we obey his commandments

1.1.2 What does His love look like?

- **It's costly**, valuable, 3:16 God so loved the world – defined by the giving of the Father – it was a sacrifice by the Father – to pour out our judgement on His son.
- **Gods love is so valuable** – He loved us and sent His son – Jesus took the punishment that we deserved as his sacrifice and turned away the judgement that is rightly ours. Sometimes this doesn't have the impact that it deserves. Sometimes it is quite useful to look at another illustration – to explain this another way. You are hauled into court and you are found guilty of the charges – and guilty verdict is death to this man – the crowds roar – then out steps Jesus as the crowd begins pulling you into your grave – He approaches and demands that your sentence is passed onto Him. Then it is suddenly Jesus who is being dragged to death not you. He is giving you the status of freedom and takes your punishment – he looks one last time the look of a brother that says I will do this again and again. He has taken our place – he has taken our guilty status and death away.
- **Real love is defined not by us but by his love for us** – our love is a response – if we are receiving his love and living out of a revelation of how special and fatherly this love is. 2 Cor 9.15 says it is the inexpressible gift. How do we respond to this sacrificial love ?

1.2 Responding to Gods love

- Matthew 22.37 **You shall love the Lord your God with your all** –we say this with our words but how do we show that we do love him?
- In Psalm 63 David shows how he thirsts for God v1 Oh God you are my God earnestly I seek you ... as if a dry and weary land. Only our God will satisfy a heart like David's and that is the way were we are all created to be. We are designed to have our thirst quenched – essence is enjoying everything. He wants this enjoyment of His love to be what defines who we are. The more we know God the more we love. In a dating site – we look at profile – but we have to move past reading about each other – we have to meet each other and move beyond just small talk. Spending more time with someone is the only way you get to know a person. Love takes time to grow. **The more time we spend with God the more we will fall in love with God.** At some point with our partner, it became obvious to our friends and relatives that we had fallen in love with them.
- **Worship is a key part of developing our love** – how do we worship when we are so busy – to work for God and not for human masters – when we see that we are working for Him it makes us want to serve in love. Put him first in our mind and not let our thoughts run away from us. Life can be all consuming serving the world – but we are asked to be different.
- **Jesus was the ultimate servant** – we are acting as his hands and feet
- **Giving generously** – Jesus spoke often about the wise use of our money – giving to others is serving God.
- **Being thankful** – thanking him for everything positions our heart in a state of worship
- **Loving God means putting him first** – it means obeying all his words. If we want to move into love it says this will be evident by the way that we love one another. Love can be perfected in us by the way we love others. Love is the proof that we are alive.
- Imagine a blocked gutter and drain pipe – it is useless. **God puts His love in us so that it flows out of us and through us** – loving God will help us better to love others in a sacrificial way. It will enable us to share our love in all that we do and all that we are.

