

SERMON DATE: August 1, 2021

SERMON SERIES: Loving God

SERMON TITLE: He First Loved Me

SERIES SUMMARY

This series will explore the intrinsic need of mankind to pursue loving God. Love is stated to be the international language. It is the language the whole world speaks, understands, and relates to. Love is the language all of mankind has spoken longest than any other language. Love is a noun. As it is an intense feeling of deep affection or a great interest and pleasure in something. It is a verb in that it exhibits itself through the actions that flow out from the deep inner feelings and affections. However, true love is only fully understood and experienced through the One who is the essence of love who has demonstrated the ultimate expression of love. Once this love is experienced, it draws upon the heart to reciprocate and also demonstrate.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

1 John 4:8-10

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Love inherently seeks to action itself. Although every person has the capacity to give and experience love, true love can only be fully understood

and experienced in fullness through the one who is the essence of love who has demonstrated the ultimate expression of love through the sacrificial gift of His son Jesus Christ. Once this love is experienced, it draws upon the heart to reciprocate resulting in devotion, adoration, conviction, and expression.

The Reason for the Need...

POINT #1 The Fallout of Disobedience

Genesis 3:11

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

- a. Sin is disobedience to God; rebellion against God's law
- b. Sin separates mankind from God

NOTE #1 Fallout is Alienation

- 1. From God – fear and fleeing from Him (Genesis 3:9-10)
- 2. From oneself – exhibits in shame (Genesis 3:10)
- 3. From one another – blame shifting (Genesis 3:12)
- 4. From Creation – curse upon childbearing, work, creations (Genesis 3:15-17)

NOTE #2 Fallout - Mankind Sentenced To Death

Genesis 3:19

"In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

- a. Ezekiel 18:4 The soul that sins it shall die
- b. Romans 6:23 Wages of sin is death

POINT #2 Love Had a Plan

1 John 4:9

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

- a. 1 John 4:8 God is Love
- b. John 3:16 When God declared that He loved the world, he actioned “gave”

Isaiah 53:4-6

“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

NOTE #3 Love Loved First

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

POINT #3 He Paid Full Price

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Propitiation – atonement

Atonement – expiation, reparation given for an offense

Expiate – to make satisfactory, to pay the penalty

Reparation – restoration to a good condition;
making amends for wrongdoing or guilt

Half-price sales are very attractive, but Jesus wasn't interested in half price, His aim was full price – It Is Finished!

John 19:28-30

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

POINT #4 An Opportunity to Return to Eden

Return to Eden – Is a Return to Fellowship With God

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

Speaking of the born-again Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:16

...“*I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*”

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

The first priority of man (mankind) is the active pursuit of knowing and loving the one true God.