

Know and Follow Jesus

God is Love

April 12, 2015

1 John 4:7-21

Who is God?

1. God is light: The source of truth and righteousness (to do right)

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. **1 John 1:5-6 (NIV)**

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. **1 John 2:29 (NIV)**

2. God is love

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:8 (NIV)

¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. **1 John 4:16 (NIV)**

-The nature of God is love

-Our understanding and definition of love needs to come from God

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7 (NIV)

The primary expression of God's love is the sending of Jesus

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)**

-It is only through Jesus that we can experience God's love

Through Jesus we see:

-God's love is a pursuing love

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son...

1 John 4:10 (NIV)

-God's love is a sacrificing love

¹⁰ ... as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10 (NIV)**

-God's love is an indwelling love

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. **1 John 4:14-15 (NIV)**

-It is only through faith in Jesus Christ –that we are able to experience God's love

-God's love is an equipping love

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11 (NIV)

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. **1 John 4:19 (NIV)**

-God's love shown through Jesus eliminates the fear of punishment

¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **1 John 4:16-18 (NIV)**

Big Idea: God is love and has revealed his love through Jesus Christ!

Action:

-Submit your definition of love to God's definition of love

-Experience God's love by expressing faith in Jesus Christ

-Allow God's love shown in the sacrifice of Jesus to push out the fear of punishment in your life

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you know, recognize and define what love is?
2. Are you letting the world or God define what love is?
3. What do you learn about God's love as revealed through Jesus Christ?
4. Are you experiencing God's love through faith in Jesus Christ?
5. Do you trust God's love so that it replaces fear of punishment in your life?
6. How does experiencing God's love through Jesus change your heart and hands?
7. What difference does God's love make in your life?

Reading for Next Week: 1 John 4:7-21