



## **Loving the Way God Loves** **(1 John 4:19-21)**

*Study Notes Handout: May 6<sup>th</sup>*

*We love because He first loved us. If anyone says 'I love God', yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

*- 1 John 4:19 - 21*

*But God loves who we really are - whether we like it or not. God calls us, as He did Adam and Eve, to come out of hiding. No amount of spiritual makeup can render us more presentable to Him... Quit projecting onto Me your own feelings about yourself...*

*If John were to be asked, 'What is your primary identity, your most coherent sense of yourself?' he would not reply, 'I am a disciple, an apostle, an evangelist', but rather - 'I am the one that Jesus loves.'*  
*- Brennan Manning, Abba's Child*

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*This morning the sermon will include some sharing of Scripture and testimony about the love of God. In the past few weeks we have learned the following lessons on love:*

- The Source of perfect love is God (4:7, 10, 16, 19)
- The Demonstration of God's love is seen in Christ (3:16; 4:9 - 10)
- The Perfection of God's love comes through knowing, relying on, and living in it (4:16)
- The Result of God's love perfected in us is no fear of judgement (4:17 - 18)
- The Evidence of our love for God is seen in how we love others (3:18; 4:8, 20)
- The Kind of love He commands is the same love that He gives (3:16; 4:11-12, 21)

### Practical Things to Do and Discuss:

- Why does God command us to love Him? (1 John 4:21; Mark 12:30 - 31; John 13:34)
- How does this fact help us re-define what love really is?
- Why does John make love for others the ultimate test of love for God?
- What do you do when you know you are called to love someone you don't like?
- Meditate on the quotes on the reverse side of this insert, and ask God to show you more of His love for you, and for you to show more of His love to others.

## Quotes on Love:

- *I am convinced that the basic cause of some of the most disturbing emotional / spiritual problems which trouble evangelical Christians is the failure to receive and live out of God's unconditional grace (love), and the corresponding failure to offer that grace (love) to others.*

- David Seamands, Healing Grace

- *Unless you know that you are loved and accepted unconditionally by God, your pursuit of Him and His righteousness will always be skewed by your effort to gain something you already have.*

- Neil Anderson and Mike & Julia Quarles, One Day at a Time

- *The only lasting freedom from self-consciousness comes from a profound awareness that God loves me as I am and not as I should be, that He loves me beyond worthiness and unworthiness, beyond fidelity and infidelity, that He loves me in the morning sun and the evening rain without caution, regret, boundary or breaking point; that no matter what I do, he can't stop loving me. When I am really in conscious communion with the reality of the wild, passionate, relentless, stubborn, pursuing love of God in Jesus Christ for me, its not that I have to, or I've got to, or I must, or I should, or I ought. Suddenly I want change because I know how deeply I'm loved.*

- Brennan Manning, One Day at a Time