



Christian Life Fellowship
Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



I GOD AM all loving

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Introduction:

Over the past two weeks we have focused on the eternal attributes of God: I GOD am all knowing and I GOD am all present.

When I say the word love – what comes to mind? What does love mean to you? For centuries, people have attempted to define love. They have written about it in poetry and in song. They have attempted to demonstrate it by giving gifts and by providing things for those who are the object of their love, but the greatest definition of love was God's demonstration to those who have been made in His image.

This morning we want to continue along the lines of I God am all loving. Love shows its depth and care through action. Love gives and will go to the wall to lay down life for another. Love can be shown by taking what someone else would have to pay and paying it for them.

Once again we are faced with thinking about the events that happened during this week we call holy week. Through the events of this week, we can clearly see love defined by the passion Christ showed by the things He suffered. Love will never be more completely defined than it was in the last week of Jesus' life on earth in the flesh. God charged Jesus with the cost and effect of our sin and Jesus willingly tasted death and paid for our sin with His own life so we might live. **1 John 4:9-10 -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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

I guess if one would try to describe the ultimate demonstration of love it would be defined by **John 15:13. - Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.** To exchange your very life for that of someone else only happens because of love.

1 John 4:7-10 - Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

If God didn't think you were valuable and worthwhile, He never would have sent Jesus to pay for your sin. Value is only equal to what someone estimates the worth and is willing to pay that price for it. The value is in the eyes

of the beholder. You can have the most valuable antique, but unless someone is willing to pay the amount that it is valued at, it isn't worth its weight in trash. So if God who is all knowing and all present and all loving allows Jesus to exchange His life for your sentence and conviction of sin, I'd say that makes you quite valuable in His eyes. He has taken quite a risk and invested the wealth of heaven and eternity in your life.

John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

Love saves and redeems. It does not condemn. Whenever you feel condemnation and you are tempted to give up the journey of faith, feeling like you cannot please God, you cannot measure up, remember this: God loved you before you were born. Do you think if He has loved you from eternity past and He knew you before you drew breath, that He will change His mind and stop loving you? With assurance let me say, HE WILL NOT!

I. God's love is eternal.

Because God is eternal and God is love, then love is eternal. God's word tells us that while we were yet sinners, Christ came and died for us. Before God ever created the universe that we see, He existed and His love was just as pure, just as strong, just as directed then as it is now and ever will be. God's love was the motivation for Him to come dwell with us and die for us and create a place for us to inhabit for all eternity.

God doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We read these words from God Himself, in **Malachi 3:6 - I, the LORD, never change. That is why you descendants of Jacob haven't been destroyed yet.**

II. God's love was demonstrated by giving.

One of the most powerful ways of communicating is to show something by your actions. God defines His love through the act of giving. He defined that when He gave Adam and Eve the Garden of Eden. He defined that when He gave the Children of Israel the law. Love will set boundaries. He defined His love when He sent Jesus to be the Savior from sin. We become the object of His love.

God is a giver. Eternally He is giving. He gives us Jesus as our Redeemer. He gives His Holy Spirit as our helper and comforter. He gives us eternal promises and purpose to live. He will give us an eternal place with Him in heaven.

Love gives. Someone once said, "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving." The two go hand in hand. God so loved that He gave. He did not withhold His love or His life, but in lavishness without restraint, He gave.

III. God's love is unconditional.

God doesn't set any qualifiers on who He will love, when He will love or how He will love. He just loves.

God doesn't say, "Clean up your act because I'm a holy God and then I will love you and accept you." If we could do that, we would not need God at all. We could redeem ourselves and that is not possible.

John 6:37 - Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me. God's love does not refuse anyone. Whosoever will may come and experience His love. To come to God takes a willingness and desire on our part. Perhaps you have a difficult time receiving God's love because someone you loved disappointed you and rejected you or skewed your idea of love. People reject and injure one another all the time, but God is not like us. He made us. The characteristics that He displays are pure while the characteristics humans display are tainted because of our carnal nature. God would never reject us or hurt us because He is love.

Anytime we use the word love it is in regard to relationship. When you think of it, without love there can be no basis or foundation for any relationship. The depth of any relationship is directly dependent on the expectations, qualifications and definition of love. God does not have any qualifiers. His love is deeper and stronger than we can imagine. He knew you before you drew breath.

IV. God's love drives out fear.

What is your greatest fear? At the basis of every fear is the fear of death. This goes back to original sin and Adam and Eve. After they had disobeyed

God, they told God they hid because their eyes were open and they were afraid.

We read these words in **1 John 4:18-19 - No fear exists where his love is. Rather, perfect love gets rid of fear, because fear involves punishment. The person who lives in fear doesn't have perfect love. We love because God loved us first.** I believe this is another reason why Jesus' resurrection is so powerful. Not only was His passion demonstrated through Him giving His life on the cross for our sin, but He was able to demolish the fear of death through his resurrection.

If any of you have ever been afraid of heights, it is a very real fear. If you watch someone do something that you are afraid of, you may not have the passion and burning desire to do that very thing, but you sure know it is possible, because you watched someone do it, and that should reduce your fear a bit. Watching Jesus take up His life again after He died and was buried should bring a reduction of fear to our mind. We know that Jesus went through a horrendous death and yet he conquered death. He said, "Because I live you shall live also."

V. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Conclusion:

The application of the truth that God is all-loving should help us respond favorably to God in His dealing with us. In our minds, God showing us His love should reinforce our value to God, remove the fear of death, help us give and remind us that nothing can separate us from His love. Our lives should be more confident in the light of I GOD AM ALL LOVE.

There is something called separation anxiety and it is very real. It shows up in children who usually are less than a year old. Between 8 months and 1 year old, a child is growing into a more independent toddler, yet he or she is even more uncertain about being separated from the parent. This is when separation anxiety typically develops and the child may become agitated and upset whenever mom or dad tries to leave him or her.

We talked last week about the reassurance that Jesus left to His disciples; that He would not abandon them and leave them forsaken. He would be with them to the end of the age. We do not have to be fearful of anything separating us from God's love. Even when we sin, God loves us. When we think wrong thoughts, when our flesh lusts for things of the world, when our attitude stinks, when our selfishness shows, God still loves us. That is not a justifiable reason for practicing sin. However, it should give us some peace of mind knowing that there is no power of darkness, no force of hell, nothing that can ever separate us from God's eternal love.