



REPERCUSSIONS OF GOD'S LOVE

1 JOHN 4:7-12

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7-12 ESV

Revelation:

Definition: Love is the willful and (ideally) joyful sacrifice of ourselves in the service of others so that they might be blessed.

"If anyone tries to separate faith from love it is as if he were trying to take away heat from the sun." ~ John Calvin

Reconsideration:

The other gods were strong,
but Thou wast weak;
They rode,
But Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds
only God's wounds can speak,
And no god has wounds,
but Thou alone.
~ Edward Shillito,
"Jesus of the Scars"

Repercussion:

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 3:11-18 and 4:7-12. What are some similarities?
2. Word Study: Choose one of these three words to study through Biblehub.com or some other tool or site. What did you learn that helps you with this passage?
1) Love (ἀγάπη), 2) Propitiation (ἱλασμός), 3) Begotten (μονογενής).
3. Think about the assertion: God is love. How is this different from saying "Love is God" or even "Love is love"? Why is this important?
4. Is the phrase "God is love" something easy or challenging for you to believe? Why/why not? How do you deal with knowing God's love in your personal life?
5. Read Luke 7:36-50. Write down some things you learn about love. Note especially Jesus—what did he see, say, ask, and do? What does Jesus say to you in this story?

Spiritual Exercise: If you read enough about Jesus interacting with people you realize Jesus saw people differently, thought about them intentionally, and stopped to help routinely. He loved. This week, ask the Holy Spirit to change your eyes to see people like Jesus, your heart to think about people like Jesus, and your agenda to help people for Jesus. Who is Jesus helping you see? How can you love them?