

# God is Love

**Text:** 1 John 4:7-21

**Topics:** Courage, The Cross

**Series: Bold Assurance**

South Orlando Baptist Church

May 29, 2016

Dr. David Crowe

**“God is Love”** - “Not only is God the source of all true love; he is love in his inmost being. There are three other statements in the New Testament concerning what God is in substance and nature: he is ‘spirit’ (John 4:24), ‘light’ (1 John 1:5) and ‘a consuming fire’ (Heb. 12:29 from Deut. 4:24). He who is love is light and fire as well. Far from condoning sin, his love has found a way to expose it (because he is light) and to consume it (because he is fire) without destroying the sinner, but rather saving him (because he is love).” John R. W. Stott, *The Letters of John*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 161.

## Because God is love...

1. Show His Love to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 4:7-8, 11-12, 20-21 )
  - A. Love can be defined as “the seeking of another’s positive good at one’s own cost.”
  - B. We must study others and seek their positive good. The five-love languages can be helpful:
    1. Quality Time 2. Physical Touch 3. Acts of Service 4. \_\_\_\_\_
    5. Words of Affirmation
2. Study to know His Love \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 4:9-11)
  - A. The Bible, God’s love letter to us, contains a library of passages on His love towards us. In addition to this section in 1 John, study other passages such as Romans 5:8; 8:37-39; Galatians 2:20; John 3:16; 13:34-35; Ephesians 2:4-5; Zephaniah 3:17; 1 Peter 5:6-7; Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 86:15; 103:8-13.
  - B. Propitiation - The word means “appeasement” or “satisfaction.” The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross satisfied the demands of God’s holiness for the punishment of sin (cf. Rom. 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:3). So Jesus propitiated or satisfied God. MacArthur Study Bible.
3. Stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ His Love provides (1 John 4:13-19)
  - A. **No fear in love** does not rule out the presence and constructive effect of “the fear of the Lord” that is “the beginning of knowledge” (Prov. 1:7). Here John speaks of fear of final judgment (cf. 1 John 4:17). God’s **perfect love** for believers **casts out the fear** of wrath and eternal punishment. (ESV Study Bible)
  - B. Are you facing the coming judgment in confidence through your faith in Christ?

## Helpful books to grow in your understanding of the Love of God:

1. (For kids) The Jesus Storybook Bible by author Sally Lloyd Jones
2. Crazy Love by author Francis Chan
3. Prodigal God by author Tim Keller
4. Knowledge of the Holy by author A.W. Tozer
5. The Cross of Christ by author John Stott

## *Application Questions*

1. How is the supernatural love of God different from the superficial idea of love that we so often hold?
2. Why does love have its origin in God? Can unregenerate people truly love? How is the love shown by those born of God different?
3. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally as Father? Why is love a good test for whether someone knows God?
4. How does John see a bloody cross as the highest expression of love?
5. Why is it important to remember that God sent Jesus knowing that He would die? What does this tell us about Jesus' ministry?
6. How would you define propitiation to a group of your peers? What does it tell us about God? About man? Where do we see these themes throughout the rest of Scripture?
7. What would Christian love look like if Christ's example was truly followed? How can you follow the example of love He displayed on the Cross?
8. How is receiving and showing love related to the Trinity?
9. Why is the mutual abiding between Christians and the Holy Spirit such a blessing? How do we know if this is real in our own lives?
10. How does abiding in the love of God give us confidence when we face judgment? How does it reassure us for the future?
11. Why does love cast out fear? What does fear reveal about our relationship to God?
12. How is the command to love God and neighbor seen throughout the Scriptures?