



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of August 18, 2024 Pastor Allen Tsai

Sermon Text: 1 John 4:7-12.

[7] Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9] In 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. [10] In 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. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1. What does it mean to you, that “God is love” (1 John 4:8)? How is this different from the phrase, “love is God” and why would this second phrase leave so much room for disappointment? (think about the ways, the world defines love)
2. Why is it not enough to simply understand intellectually, God’s *agape* love (His relentless, committed, and unconditional love), in order for us to truly love one another? Beyond an intellectual cerebral understanding of God’s love, what do you think it takes before we truly delight in the Person of God’s love?
3. Recall the illustration of Allen stealing the taco from Dan, Dan getting mad, and then Allen repaying Dan with a taco and a burrito. Based on this illustration, what does “propitiation” mean? How does Christ’s death on the cross act as the propitiation for our sins and how does the above Allen/Dan illustration fall short when it comes to our sin against God? Why was it *necessary* for Christ to die?
4. How is an invisible God made “visible” in our world today? Related to this, how is God’s love perfected in us? What is the end goal of God’s love?
5. Using the words “initiate”, “sacrifice”, and “serve”, describe how you can apply what you have learned through this sermon. Based on what you just described, explain how this differs from the way the world teaches and encourages us to live.