

July 17, 2022

Lesson 26 – 1 John 4:7-10

Once upon a vine

If we insist that the flowers or leaves of the plant are the most important part of the plant, we will destroy the plant.

“Nothing is so deadening to our spiritual lives as a habitual dealing with the outside of holy things.” – George Macdonald

Division in the church . . . attacking the greatest commandments

1 John 4:7-10

There are 3 points from this text:

- ~ The command to love
- ~ The goal of love
- ~ The power of love

The command to love

v.7 – 8 Beloved, let us love one another . . . God is love (v.21)

a. Instruction based on relationship

b. Why are we commanded to love?

Love is from God . . . & . . . God is love

Who gets to set the definition?

One God eternally exists in three distinct persons (Mt 28:18-20).

Eternal sacrificial love

c. What is love?

A gift of God – from God and
evidence of being born and
knowing God

We cannot cause ourselves to
love this is the work of the Holy
Spirit (Gal 5:22)

**Why would you need to command
someone to love if love is inevitable?**

God has designed the fulfillment of His
promises to be carried out by the Holy Spirit
through the power of His Word.

The goal of love

v.9 In this . . . live through Him.

a. In what?

b. How was this love made manifest

The incarnation

c. Why, what's the goal?

So that we might live through

Christ

The power of love

v.10 In this . . . the propitiation for our sins

a. In what?

b. Not that we loved God

Enemies (Rm 5:10-11)

Love is **not** God

Contrary to popular belief
neither love is not God & our
attempts to love apart from the
power of the Holy Spirit will
crush others and collapse in on
us.

c. He sent His Son to be the propitiation
for our sins

The turning away of God's wrath against
our sin by His own provision of the
sacrifice of Jesus on the cross

We do not get what we deserve instead
we get the ministry of reconciliation (2
Cor 5:17-21)

Our love is to be characterized by sacrifice