



## Connect Study

### LOVE

1 John 4:4-20



### Sermon Points

1. **Love originates with God** (1 John 4:7-8)
2. **Love came to us** (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:35; 1 John 4:9-10)
3. **Love extends to others** (1 John 4:11-12; 1 John 4:19-20; Galatians 6:10)
4. **Love obeys the King** (John 14:15; John 13:35)

### Discussion Starter

What is a good definition of love?

### From the Bible

1. Read through the Bible references in the sermon points and note any questions or anything that stand out to you.
2. How and why is God's love for his people eternal and irreversible?

*"In the very beginning, when this great universe lay in the mind of God, like unborn forests in the acorn cup; long before the echoes awoke the solitudes; before the mountains were brought forth; and long before the light flashed through the sky, God loved His chosen creatures. Before there was any created being; when the ether was not fanned by an angel's wing, when space itself had not an existence, where there was nothing save God alone — even then, in that loneliness of Deity, and in that deep quiet and profundity, God was moved with love for His chosen. Their names were written on His heart, and then were they dear to His soul. Jesus loved His people before the foundation of the world — even from eternity! and when He called me by His grace, He said to me, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." (Charles Spurgeon)*

3. What does Christian love look like? Cf. Romans 12:10, 13:10, 14:15; Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 4:2, 15; Ephesians 5:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Peter 4:8; John 14:15; 1 John 5:2, etc.

**Think it through**

1. How is the Christian's love different from the world's love?
2. Do you agree or disagree with these quotes?  
Mother Teresa said, *"I give my love to the person I am talking to."*  
*"God does not love us because Christ died for us;  
Christ died for us because God loved us."*  
*"In hell there is no love because God withdraws his presence."*
3. How could you love the church this year?
4. How could you love non-Christian people this year?



- Pray that as a church we would grow to comprehend more the great love of God for his people
- Pray that as a church we would grow in love for one another

### Prayer for the week

Almighty God,

You alone can order the unruly wills and passions of human beings: grant to Your people that they may love what You command and desire what You promise, so that, among the many and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

### Core value #1



**Love**  
In order to model Christ's sacrificial love, we put the needs of others first by showing patience and kindness.  
(John 13:35)