

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

TOPIC: I AM LOVED

TEXT: ROMANS 8:38-39, 12:9-13; 1 JOHN 3:16-18; JOHN 14:15, 21-24; JOHN 13:34-35

INTRODUCTION

Even though the Bible tells us God is love, it is hard to fully grasp that truth. How do we fully understand that God loves us with an enduring, sacrificial, infinite, and unconditional love? When sin threatened our relationship with Him, He sacrificed His own son to restore that relationship. “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16).

1. Nothing Will Separate us From His Love – Romans 8:38–39

Paul assures suffering believers that in all these things we are more than conquerors. Christian victory becomes possible only through him (Christ) who loved us.

Q: What is your response to those who say God’s love is overrated?

2. The God Who Sees – Genesis 16:13, 1 Peter 5:7

If you can see yourself as God sees you, radiant in his righteousness, cleansed by Christ's blood; if you can allow yourself to become fully aware of his pleasure in seeing you, then you will understand that you cannot win his love by performance. Once you shift your focus from your performance to his love, you will be able to accept him dwelling in your heart and walk in union with him in his shalom (peace).

Q: Why is it important for us to know we can’t win His love by performance?

3. God's Love is Our Foundation – Ephesians 3:14-19

Paul prayed a two-part prayer in Ephesians 3 (A prayer for enlightenment and for enablement)

Paul wanted the Ephesian church to learn all they have in Christ and then live what they have learned. God’s Word should transform us. His great love should affect our thoughts, our actions, and our relationships with others.

Q: How key is it for believers to appreciate that love is foundational to our faith?

4. The greatest fruit of God’s Spirit in our life is love – Romans 12:9-13

I want to be rooted in the love of Christ, anchored in him, supported by him. Deep roots equals to firm foundations. Being rooted and grounded in love—the word translated “grounded” here represents a strong foundation, and a Christian’s foundation is based upon the love of Christ.

Q: What are the implication of a believer not understanding being rooted and grounded in love?

5. God’s Love is Unconditional – 1 John 3:16-18

God loves us with genuine unconditional love. He loved us in the womb, and he loved us while we were still sinners. God is an awesome God of love who is ready, willing, and able to provide for all our needs. He takes great delight in meeting our needs and showing us love.

Many times we are so focused on our needs that we lose focus on his rich love for us. He desires intimacy with us. God holds us accountable for what we say and do; but it's an expression of his perfect love. It takes tremendous vision to comprehend the depth of God's love, just as it takes a huge telescope to begin to comprehend the size of the universe. God placed his love in each of us. He created us to love him and to be loved by him.

Q: What is your definition of “unconditional love” and why does the scripture say “without love our service is like clanging cymbals” (1 Cor. 13:1-2)?

6. Expressing our love by Obedience – John 14:15, 21-24

The way we can express our love to God is through obedience, and by being compassionate and forgiving toward others just as he has forgiven us. We show love, not in our words, but in our actions.

Discussion: Give examples of how we show the love God has bestowed on us.

Conclusion

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34–35)

I am fearfully and wonderfully made and loved by God.

There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, there is nothing you can do to make God love you less.

Using every opportunity to love others honours the Lord and draw us closer to him. Thank him and praise him for loving you. Bask in his unconditional love. He's the God who sees!