

1 John: The Heart of a Pastor
The Power of Love 1 John 4:7-5:3
Sunday a.m. 11/5/2017

■ **The Source of Love (1 John 4:7-8)**

- ❖ John uses love in some form 46 times in 1 John
- ❖ It is used 32 times in **1 John 4:7 – 5:3**
- ❖ John uses the Greek word *agape*
- ❖ This word was born out of the love that God has for us

⊛ **The simplest definition of this love is unconditional**

William Barclay

“agape love is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live.”

✚ The word for love most commonly used today is the Greek word **eros**

⊛ **This love is self-centered and grasping, it seeks its own satisfaction by acquiring a desired object**

Example: Listen girls, if a boy says, “if you love me you will do this for me.”

⊛ **Just fill in the blank. They will love you with certain conditions attached.**

Another example

- ❖ “I love you to the moon and back” is from the children's book, "Guess How Much I Love You".

⊛ **It shows the love that a person has for someone else that is more than they can imagine or describe**

"I love you up to the moon," said Little Nutbrown Hare.

"Oh, that's far," said Big Nutbrown Hare. "That is very, very far." Big Nutbrown Hare settled Little Nutbrown Hare into his bed of leaves.

He leaned over and kissed him goodnight. Then he lay down close by and whispered with a smile, "I love you to the moon and back."

✚ I am not down playing this statement, but it is still conditional love

- **The source of unconditional love is God (7b)**

- ✧ "The reason God expressed his fullest expression of love was because of our sin."

- ❖ The only way we can love others is to be born again of God; to have a relationship with God

- ✚ This love is the proof, the evidence that God dwells in us

- ❖ The person that cannot love does not know God **(8)**

- **The Superiority of God's Love (1 John 4:9-11)**

- **It is seen by the gift God gave us (9)**

- ✚ God sent His only begotten Son

only – uniqueness, no other gift like His Son

- **It is seen in the purpose of his gift (9b)**

- ✚ His gift enabled us to live in Christ

- **It is seen by who receives his gift (10a)**

- ✚ God loved **us** and sent His Son

- **It is seen by the sacrifice of his gift (10b)**

- ✚ Jesus was the propitiation, what satisfied God's wrath for our sins

- ✧ "God's self-giving love was drawn fourth by our need, not by any good within us."

❖ We have an obligation to love one another (11)

- ✚ God's love toward us is the incentive for us to love others
- ✚ He loved us, therefore love others
- ✚ We are to reproduce God's love in our life

■ The Evidence of God's Love (1 John 4:12-13)

❖ Love is the visible evidence that God dwells in us (12)

- ✚ People see God when they see His love in us
- ✚ Love is perfected, brought to the proper goal, when we love others
- ✚ We are showing God abiding in us when we love one another

❖ God's love is perfected in us, matured in us (12c)

❖ This is the work of the Holy Spirit (13)

■ The Confession of God's Love (1 John 4:14-16)

❖ We confess Jesus is the son of God (14)

❖ The result of our confession is that Christ abides in us (15)

❖ Confession can be a costly act

- ✚ It is a public, not a private confession
- ✚ It is a confession of loyalty to Christ

Christian convert from Islam Ebrahim Firouzi has been in and out of prison in Iran since 2011,

Pastor Zhang Shaojie of Nanle County Christian Church in China, is currently serving a 12-year prison term for "gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order".

■ The Maturity of God's Love (1 John 4:17- 5:3)

❖ Fruit must ripen or mature before it is good to use

God's love maturing in us gives us:

- Confidence on the day of judgment (17-18)

✪ The maturity of God's love and our life prepares us to stand before God at the Beama Seat

✪ There is no reason to fear judgment if we are certain of our standing before God

- **Love for those in Christ (4:19 - 5:3)**

- ❖ Love is our identifying mark as Christians

- ✚ Demonstration of God's love (20)

- ✪ Can we say we love God if we cannot love those around us

- ✚ Obedience of God's word (21)

- ❖ We love because we are commanded to love

- **Proof of family (5:1-2)**

- ❖ We are the child of God, therefore we love all of those who are the children of God

- ❖ The proof we are his children is that we love God and obey his commands

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