

“LOVE IS FROM GOD”

1 John 4:7-21

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I. THE PROMISE OF LOVE. Matthew 1:20-21

- A. Origin in God. 20
- B. Sent to be Savior. 21

Principles:

- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.
- God sent Jesus to earth to save people from their sins.

II. THE PATTERN OF LOVE. 1 John 4:7-12

- A. Origin in God. 7-8
- B. Seen in the Savior. 9-10
- C. Seen in the Saved. 11-12

Aspects of God's Love

- God's love was a choice of the will – not merely an emotion.
- God's love took the initiative – He loved before He was loved.
- God's love gave – He gave His own Son. Instead of gratifying itself, God's love gave of itself.
- God's love was for everyone – not just a few. His love was not conditional, but it was freely and unconditionally extended even to those who were totally unworthy.
- God's love valued the life it could give – above the cost it would require.
- God's love is unfailing – it never ceases.

Awesomeness of God's Love

- It is seen in the value of God's gift. 9b
- It is seen in the purpose of the Son's mission. 9c
- It is seen in the condition of the recipients of His love. 10a
- It is seen in the manner in which the gift ultimately had to be given. 10b

Principles:

- God's love takes the initiative to reach out and is offered unconditionally.
- God wants to show Himself to others by loving them through us.

III. THE PERFECTION OF LOVE. 1 John 4:13-21

- A. Origin in God. 13
- B. Seen in the Savior. 14
- C. Seen in the Saved. 15-21

Principles:

- God's presence with us through His Spirit enables us to believe in Him and to love others.
- Our confession that Jesus is the Christ and the testimony of our lives demonstrate that God lives in us.
- When we live in love, we have confidence before God that we belong to Him, and we need not fear His judgment.

CONCLUSION

As we examine God's love, we find characteristics we also should have:

- God's love is not based on our being lovable or worthy of love.
- God held nothing back in giving what was precious to Him when He gave His Son to die for us.
- God's love is not a one-time expression, but an ongoing commitment.