

# NOTES PAGE



TODAY'S MESSAGE:

## Life WITH Love

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | October 22, 2023

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...

For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like."

– **A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy** (New York: HarperCollins, 1978)

"I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God.

By God Himself, it is not! How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important. Indeed, how we think of Him is of no importance except in so far as it is related to how He thinks of us...

To please God . . . to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness . . . to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son—it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is."

– **C. S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory** (1941)

### Which is more important?

- Growing in our love for God
- Growing in our understanding God's love for us

### 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 (NIV)

*<sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

### 1 John 4:7-19 (NIV)

*<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.** <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> **And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.**

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> **We love because he first loved us.**

## **NO FEAR:**

### **1 John 4:17-18 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

## **Roadblocks:**

- **PROJECTION of your thoughts onto GOD...**
- **CONFUSION of WHY God loves you...**
- **MISUNDERSTANDING of how God shows His love...**

### **1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

### **Romans 5:6-11 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## Reflection Questions:

- 1) Which is more important? Growing in our love for God or growing in our understanding of God's love for us? Explain your answer...
- 2) What words would you use to describe how God thinks/feels about you? Why did you choose those words?
- 3) Read 1 John 4:7-19. What observations do you make about love? God's love for us and our love for God?
- 4) Have you ever noticed that you have projected your views of yourself onto your belief of how God views you? Share an example?
- 5) Do you truly believe in the depths of your soul that God loves you? Why does God love you? Explain your answer.
- 6) Read Romans 5:6-11. What words does Paul use to describe us before putting our faith in Jesus? Have you ever viewed yourself as once being the enemy of Jesus? Why is understanding this important to understanding the love of God?
- 7) Write a letter from God to you about you. Answer these questions from God's perspective:

Why do you love me?

What are your thoughts toward me?

What do you see in me?

What do you want from me?

What do you want for me?

What about me brings you delight and joy?

What are your hopes for me?

Do these answers line up with what the Bible says God thinks?

Share this with someone else? Ask them to the same?



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