

Essential Fellowship: 9 of 10

“Reasons To Love”
Cornerstone Church Of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
April 3, 2022

Big Idea: We can know the joy of life if we walk together in His light.

We Choose Love Because:

1. God Loved Us First

“Dear friends, **let us love one another**, for **love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been **born of God** and **knows God**. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. **1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)**

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**. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as **an atoning sacrifice** for our sins.”

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

Notes: _____

2. Loving Others Reveals God’s Love to the World

“Dear friends, since **God so loved us**, **we also ought to love one another**. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, **God lives in us and his love is made complete in us**.” **1 John 4:11-12 (NIV)**

"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 (NIV)**

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may **believe that you have sent me**. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may **be one** as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to **complete unity** to let the world know that you **sent me** and have **loved them** even as you have **loved me**." **John 17:20-23 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. God's Holy Spirit Gives Us Supernatural Love

"We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has **given us of his Spirit**. And we have **seen and testify** that the Father has sent his Son to be the **Savior of the world**. **If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God**. 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 him."

1 John 4:13-16 (NIV)

Notes: _____

4. We have Been Forgiven

"In this way, **love is made complete among us** so that we will have **confidence on the day of judgment**, because in this world **we are like him**. **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.

1 John 4:17-18 (NIV)

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: **Whoever loves God must also love his brother.**"

1 John 4:19-21 (NIV)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." **Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

➤ **Are you loving others with natural or supernatural love?**

To love others, I will:

Practice forgiving the people in my life

Find a way to honor, value, and cherish my family this week

Invite someone to Easter

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss]

Big Idea: We can know the joy of life if we walk together in His light.

Open in Prayer

Icebreaker: What personality trait did you get from your Father? Mother?

The Enduring Word Bible Commentary - 1 John:

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son”: This shows us what love is and what it means. Love is not only defined by the sacrifice of Jesus (as stated in 1 John 3:16); it is also defined by the giving of the Father. It was a sacrifice for the Father to send the Second Person of the Trinity, and a sacrifice to pour out the judgment we deserved upon God the Son.

We need to appreciate this fully, and receive the Fatherly love God has to give us. Some of us, for whatever reason, have come to think of God the Father as aloof and mean, perhaps the so-called “angry God” of the Old Testament. In this wrong thinking, many imagine they prefer the nice and loving Jesus instead. But the Father loves us too; and the love Jesus showed in His ministry was the same love God the Father has towards us. We can receive the healing power in our Father’s love.”

We Choose Love Because:

1. God Loved Us First

Read 1 John 4:7-10

How has God demonstrated His love?

How can a person know God and experience His love?

Notes: _____

2. Loving Others Reveals God's Love To The World

Read 1 John 4:11-12 & John 13:34-35

Why does John's reason to love one another make sense?

How does Jesus elevate the way to love others?

What are some examples of the life of Jesus that we can follow?

Read John 17:20-23

Who is the focus of Jesus' prayer?

What kind of unity exists between God the Father and Jesus that we should copy?

3. God's Holy Spirit Gives Us Supernatural Love

Read 1 John 4:13-16

From verses 8 through 15, what do you learn about the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

How has God been changing the way you love people in your life?

4. We Have Been Forgiven

Read 1 John 4:17-21

How does the message that God's love drive out fear help you understand Him more?

How would you describe God's forgiveness?

Why is forgiveness so transformable?

When has God's love cast out fear in your life?

How do you want to love sacrificially this week at home? Work? Church?

Read Colossians 3:12-13

Which attribute would help your family the most this week?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.
