



Advent: Love

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⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us...¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. **1 John 4:7-12, 16-19**

You cannot know God without love and you cannot truly experience love without God. (vs. 8)

To know the love of God in your life, you need to identify the lies and replace them with the truth.

Real love is not: conditional, manipulative or condemning. Love is not something you can earn. It's not something you fall in or out of. Love is not only a feeling or emotion.

Real love is: Love is forgiving, freeing, encouraging and restful. Love is a choice. Love is both thought and action. Love is sacrificial. Real love, God's love, **agape** is unconditional.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

Believe the truth of God's love.

- God's love is dependable. **(vs. 16)**
- You cannot do anything to earn or lose God's love. **(Romans 8:38-39)**
- He loves you not because of what you have done, but because of who He is. He is love.
- He delights, rejoices and sings over you. **(Zephaniah 3:17)**

Live in the truth. Live like you are loved, because you are.

- No fear of judgment. **(vs. 17-18)**
- Love for others out of response to God's love for us. **(vs. 11)**
- Christ-like love for others reveals God, because God is love. **(vs. 12)**
- Because you are loved, live out: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness. **(Col. 3:12-14)**

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. **John 3:16-17**

Remain in His love.

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in His love. **John 15:9-10**

Love in Action Steps:

1. Talk to Jesus. Confess the lies you have been believing regarding love. Then let Jesus tell you the truth about His love for you. He loves you!
2. Believe the truth and live in the truth. Live like you are loved by the creator of the universe because you are.
3. Remain in His love, daily proclaim and rest in the truth of His love for you.
4. Love others because you are loved by God. Love with words, thoughts and actions.