Love Comes and Goes

1 John 4:7-8

Sermon Outline

A. The Source of Love (vs. 7):

1. Beloved – John is writing to believers he once served as a pastor in a tender manner. These believers are ‘dearly beloved.’
   
a) He addresses his readers as ‘dear friends’ (agapētoi), expressing something of his affection for them and introducing a matter for which he wants their special attention, as he frequently does in this letter (2:7; 3:2, 21; 4:1, 7, 11). The author not only exhorts his readers to love one another, but he also provides a reason for them to do so: for love comes from God. The significance of this statement is teased out in 4:9–10, where the historical expression of God’s love is explained.[1]

2. Let us love – Loving one another is to continuously demonstrate compassion, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, for the needs of each other no matter the sacrifice or commitment it demands. It is not talk, it is love in action (1 John 3:18).
   
a) Challenge the believers to love one another is something John repeats often (3:11, 23; 4:7,11,12).
   
b) The absence of the article (God is the love) indicates that love is not simply a quality which God possesses, but love is that which He is, by His very nature. Further, because God is love, love which He shows is occasioned by Himself only and not by any outside cause. The word God is preceded by an article, which means that the statement is not reversible; it cannot read, “Love is God.”[2]

3. Love – Love in its pure form is a deliberate act of obedience to God as it relates to other people whether they are believers or not (John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-48; 22:36-40). This is a benevolent love. It is to obey God as the word directs a believer to relate to the needs of another.

4. Is – Since God is love and love originates from God, and find its source of strength from God, that is continuous and never ending, love can never fail (1 Corinthians 13:8). This is why love is spiritual and is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians5:22).

5. From God – God is supreme and sovereign.
a) This is the third of three expressions in John’s writings that help us understand the nature of God: “God is spirit” (John 4:24, NASB); “God is light” (1 John 1:5); and “God is love.” None of these is a complete revelation of God, of course, and it is wrong to separate them.\[\text{[3]}\]

6. Everyone who loves - This is everyone who continuously and habitually demonstrate compassion, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, for the needs of each other no matter the sacrifice or commitment it demands. It is not talk, it is love in action (1 John 3:18).

7. Is born – The person whose love is inspired by God demonstrates that they have been completely transformed by the Holy Spirit into the divine nature of God (2 Corinthians 5:17).

8. Is born – To be born again is to be completely changed from the inside out so that a believer is influenced to live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This believer now has the ability to demonstrate characteristics that is representative of Christ. This person cannot repeatedly live in sin (1 John 3:4-10).

9. Knows – A person that is born again lives continuously under the influence of the Holy Spirit and can therefore clearly understand all that God is directing them to do. This leads to an intimate experience of how God’s Word is applied on a daily basis.

a) Against those members of his church who may have been claiming secret regeneration through the divine “seed” (note 3:9 and comment), and initiation into esoteric spiritual knowledge (cf. 2:20), the writer makes it clear that birth from God and the knowledge of Him are manifest characteristics of “every” (πᾶς) loving Christian believer.\[\text{[4]}\]

10. Knows – This is a person that can see through the issues before them because they understand how to apply God’s Word to daily issues. Therefore, this person walks in the light (1 John 1:5-7). This is why believers who experience God daily have fellowship with one another (Ephesians 5:21 – a husband and wife living under the direction of the Holy Spirit submits to one another but in the flesh, there is a need for structure to maintain order).

B. Love at Its Best (vs. 8):

1. The one who does not love – This is a person who does not continuously demonstrate compassion, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, for the needs of each other no matter the sacrifice or commitment it demands. It is not talk, it is love in action (1 John 3:18).

2. Does not know – The person who does not love finally cannot clearly understand all that God is directing them to do because they walk in darkness (1 John 2:9-10).

3. God – God all by Himself, completely powerful and sovereign, independent of
all things is the very nature of love.

4. **Is** – Since God is love and love originates from God, and find its source of strength from God, that is continuous and never ending, love can never fail (1 Corinthians 13:8). This is why love is spiritual and is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

5. **Love** – God sovereignly defines and directs how believers relate to each other’s needs. When believers submit to God’s rule in their lives and follow His direction love is manifested and it exposes God’s nature in them (John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:43-48; 22:36-40).

   a) Challenge the believers to love one another is something John repeats often (3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12).
   b) Yet a foundational tenet of Old Testament theology is that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is a God who zealously loves His people. Moses composed a hymn to God that stated, “In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed” (Ex. 15:13). Although He punishes rebellion, God shows “love to a thousand generations of those” who turn to Him in faith (20:6).

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