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Trinity Church

Imparted Love, 1 John 4:16-19

July 21, 2024

Pray for an impartation of the love of God.

Let’s go right to the text.

1 John 4:16-19

**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.

The context of the text. John is an older man, a father and grandfather to the church. In his letters he is offering the best that he has to a church he loves and compels them to continuing living for God and living in his love! You can’t hoard love. It’s given freely from your life.

Cathy opened with a powerful message and talked about how John has actually touched, saw and walked with the one who invites us into life and life to the full. Psalm 34:8 says, “taste and see that the Lord is good” Family is what we were made for and family with Jesus is what John got to experience.

Similarly to David, John is appealing to people not only with intellect, fact knowledge and perfect persuasion but with the reality that he knows God in the flesh, a man after God’s own heart and the beloved disciple. He knows the light of the world and love himself. Light and Love are central themes that John experiences in the flesh.

Anyone in here a history person?? I’m enjoying history more and more. There’s a difference between going to Washington D.C. and standing in the Holocaust Museum listening to a survivor talk about their life and reading it in the book.

John saw Jesus transfigured and shining as the Light of the World. He also sees him crying at the death of his friend before raising him back to life. This love he experiences can’t be kept just for himself.

Back to the text for today:

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**19**We love because he first loved us.

We rely on the love God has for us. John isn’t relying on an idea, or a new fact. He’s relying on the God he knew in the flesh. Jesus! Because John has experienced freedom from fear, shame, and rejection. And wants to show people the way to the one who can give them the love, hope and confidence they have longed for all their lives.

Story about me: Saying I love you to people that didn’t say it back in the middle, and then saying it to my Grampa with tears in his eyes.

What are you like when you are scared, ashamed, and rejected? It may be a lot to open up with a question like that, but I think we can all recognize the kind of person we become when we operate in that kind of way. Someone has hurt us, we have hurt someone, or we are believing a lie about our own life. Tension in your chest, mind going at 1000mph, so uncertain about what to do or what to say.

Here are some things that may cause us to live in shame, fear and rejection – someone not reciprocating the love and desire for friendship we have, political instability, our kids future with so much depression and anxiety in their generation, feeling like I have to perform at work, insecurity from childhood wounds…

What are you like when you are loved, hopeful and confident? Everything changes doesn’t it. The way we operate and the people we become when we are loved instead of scared, hopeful instead of living in shame and confident not rejected is massive.

This is the Jesus way, and this is 1 John. Receive God’s love and his hope and his confidence. He has made us to be like him, no way to describe God without the word love and there should be no way to describe us without love.

Does anyone else want to overflow with God’s love?? To be filled with the confidence and authority that comes from living in God. I know I do. I know many of you long for that, and our world is desperate for it.

We rely on the love of God in this way – I want to introduce 3 words to us that are important to studying this text: Impart, Abide, and Fear.

1. Impart

You can’t give what you haven’t received. You can’t experience or live into something that you haven’t seen modeled. I am aware that I don’t have much to bring to the table myself, but I can freely give what God has given me and that is transformative.

-Imparted love… v. 16 and 19 (we have to recognize what has been imparted to us our whole lives, sins, wounds and lies…. And also the love that has been imparted. That’s what makes up our story and is who we are.

2. Abide.

-Abide in love… v. 16-17 (be in love, live in love, be a person that receives the love of God…. And do this through spending time with the Holy Spirit who reminds us of Jesus). IN HIM, we find everything in and with him.

I am the vine and you are the branches. John 15

3. Fear

Fear and reverence are the same word in Scripture…. The presence of fear as in scared + anxious or fear as in awe + reverence often depends the way you view the situation. Yirah in Hebrew and Phobos in Greek.

Book of Ruth – Naomi’s two sons die, and chapter 1 ends with I have been cursed by God and he has afflicted me. She fears God, but it’s the wrong kind of fear. He’s out to redeem her, not to get her. Chapter 2 stats with Boaz her kinsman redeemer. That changes the course of her history and doesn’t punish her but puts her in the lineage of Jesus himself.

She becomes Jesus great great great great Grandmother

“I have to repent of my sin so I can get God’s wrath off of me”

“I need to do the right thing so God will love me and give favor to my life”

“I wonder what I’ve done wrong and how I can get God to show his love again”

Your worldview isn’t what you see, it’s the glasses you are wearing that impact what you see. The way we see God is the most important thing in life.

A. W. Tozer: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us”

Same word with different meanings. But those meanings change everything!!

Every Sunday should be Father’s day. Cause the Father is that Good! He’s that loving. John sees God, Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit as the most loving persons that have fully accepted and transformed him into their family.

I want to give the same gift John gave to the early church. A call to live in reverence/awe of the love of God. Receive a fresh impartation this morning of how much God is for you. That he is out to get you, redeem you, and love you as he loves Jesus.

And remember, love can’t be hoarded, who else needs to receive this?

Pray for an impartation of the love of God.