



# Summarizing Love

1 Jon 4:7 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. NIV



# Summarizing Love

1 Jon 4:7 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. ... 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. NIV



# Oh, for the love of God

- God is love
- If we love one another God lives in us
- Love comes from God
- 



# Love is a verb- but not when you are describing God

- God is love
- Last week, different views of atonement
  - Atonement: At one ment
  - What happened at the cross?
- Christos Victor
  - Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil
- Substitution
  - Jesus took our place as a ransom
- Moral transformation
  - Yes; what was bad became good/ reborn



# How can a loving God have wrath?

## 1. What is wrath?

Strong, stern, fierce anger

Vegeance / punishment

If God is love, how can God have such strong anger that God punishes?



# How can a loving God have wrath?

## 2. People do bad things from childhood.

Gen 6:5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.



# The Ark

Gen 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

22 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”



# How can a loving God have wrath?

3. God loves the people who do bad things.

John 3:16-17 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. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



# How can a loving God have wrath?

4. Consider the attributes of love (that we have just studied) that speak of the tenacity of love.
  - 1 Cor 13:6 It (love) is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. 7 If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. Living Bible



# How can a loving God have wrath?

4. Consider the attributes of love (that we have just studied) that speak of the tenacity of love.

- It (love) is never glad about injustice,
- loyal to him no matter what the cost.

always stand your ground in defending him.

Living Bible

- Truly loving someone means that you want their life to matter for something.

- Committed to bringing the offender to justice
- Our justice system is built on the value of a life.



# How can a loving God have wrath?

- 5. There is much talk today about Justice
  - We want justice for the person who harms us
  - We want justice for the person who harms ours
  - We want mercy for ourselves



# How can a loving God have wrath?

- 6. When you love a person, they matter.
  - They matter to you
  - You value them
  - They are important to you
  - When God loves a person, they matter to him
- If someone does wrong to a person God loves, God wants justice done on behalf of the person God loves.
- LOVE AND WRATH GO HAND IN HAND
- THAT IS LOVE!



# How can a loving God have wrath?

- 7. The problem is, God also loves the person who does harm to the one God loves.
- So
- To stand on the side of one person, God has to bring punishment to the person who harmed him/her.
  - In the Old Testament; God brought wrath on the nations that performed infant sacrifice.
  - God always stands on the side of those who have no voice.
- The problem is that God loves that person also



# How can a loving God have wrath?

- 8. So God made a way of bringing both His love to people and satisfying the need for justice in His love.
- 2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
  - Only one person could do it! God's son! W/O sin!
  - My sin against God and others is forgiven in Christ
  - Other people's sin against me is forgiven in Christ
  - But it is NOT cheap
  - Jesus paid the penalty! He was the atoning sacrifice!



# So What?

- Respond!
- When others sin against you; remind yourself “they are a person for whom Christ died too.”
- It's not all about you.
- For God so loved THE WORLD! Everyone!
- Love God and love people.
- Let people know they matter.
- Let God know God matters to you.





# Summarizing Love

1 Jon 4:7 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. NIV



# Summarizing Love

1 Jon 4:7 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. ... 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. NIV



# Oh, for the love of God

- God is love
- If we love one another God lives in us
- Love comes from God



# Love is a verb- but not when you are describing God

- God is love
- Last week, different views of atonement
  - Atonement: At one ment
  - What happened at the cross?
- Christos Victor
  - Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil
- Substitution
  - Jesus took our place as a ransom
- Moral transformation
  - Yes; what was bad became good/ reborn



# 1. God is love

- God took the first steps
  - While we were still sinners Christ died for us Rm 5
- God reconciled
  - God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. 2 Cor 5
- God finds a way
  - God made him who had no sin to be sin on our behalf- 2 Cor 5
- Love takes the first steps
- Love reconciles
- Love finds a way



## 2. Love comes from God

- What a gift!
- Cannot explain it
  - 6 love is as strong as death,  
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.
  - It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.
  - 7 Many waters cannot quench love;  
rivers cannot sweep it away.
  - If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned. Song of sol 8



# 3. When we love, God lives in us.

- The presence of God
  - Tricky to explain
    - God is everywhere
    - All people are fashioned in the image of God
  - God selects a people
    - Used to be Jewish people
    - Now all are welcome
    - Now God enters into people who respond to him
    - By the power of God's Holy Spirit



### 3. When we love, God lives in us.

- Love is present with people
- Love enters into people
- Love establishes relationship
- When you are loved, you belong



# So What?

Ponder who God is

What are God's attributes that you see and experience?

Define love as you experience it.

Have you ever felt God living inside you?

What would you expect to see as evidence of God's presence in you?

