

Living Water Fellowship

16th Sunday after Pentecost – 17th September 2023

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONG: Speak O Lord

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God & knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one & only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us & sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, & his love is brought to full expression in us. ¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him & he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes & now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, & they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, & we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, & all who live in love live in God, & God lives in them. ¹⁷ As we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. ¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, & this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

CHILDREN’S TIME:

FAITH CHAT:

1. Where (or in whom) have you seen self-sacrificing love this past week?
2. Where (or for whom) is it hardest for you to “*love one another*”? Why is that?

THE MESSAGE: *DYSFUNCTIONAL: DYSFUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS*

OFFERING SONG: Servant Song (AT191)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO: SING TO JESUS (Robbie Seay Band)- CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God...
You are loved immeasurably by the Father
through Christ his Redeeming Son.
-- Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Shout to the North

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. John begins this passage with a command to love one another. John then explains that loving is proof that one knows God & is born of God. Why is this true?
3. Compare God's love with the world's conception of love. Is love more of a "feeling" or a "commitment in action"? Why? How do you know?
4. What's the difference between saying "God is love" & saying "God is loving"?
5. In vs 9-16, we see the Trinity in action: the Father sends the Son; the Son pays the penalty & cancels the debt of punishment we owe the Father for our sin, & the Father sends the Spirit to make us children of God. Through the Scripture we see the Trinity working as three divine persons living as one perfect unity, existing in harmony, working together in relationship to & glorifying one another. If God is the perfect example of love in action, what can we learn about what it looks like to love from the way the Trinity operates?
6. We don't often think we hate others. But the bottom line is that we are either acting in love toward someone OR we are not. Neutrality or indifference are not options. So...
 - i. When do you find it hard to act in love toward someone?
 - ii. Who do you find hard to love?
 - iii. How can you or anyone overcome the challenge to love?
7. What happens to our efforts to love each other if those efforts aren't connected to Jesus' love for us? How does God's love for us transform the way we see others?
8. Why is it important that we find the definition of love in the cross rather than somewhere else? What is the danger in defining or quantifying God's love based on your circumstances rather than the cross? Is there any situation in your life right now that is causing you to question the love of God? Based on these verses, how would you counter those doubts?
9. Why does it matter that no one has ever seen God? What relevance does that fact have to John's words about love? Does verse 12 indicate that God's love is somehow imperfect or incomplete? Why or why not? What, then, does it mean that God's love is made complete or perfected when we love one another?
10. Where in your life are you hoping to make visible the love of God this week? Who specifically do you want to love in such a way that they encounter the love of God as you know it in Jesus Christ?