

Sermon #1: How He Loves

02 Nov 2025

BREAKING THE ICE

- How do people in our world today try to find their identity and worth apart from God's Fatherly love?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (1 John 3:1-3; 1 John 4:16-18; Prov 3:11-12; Lk 18:17; Matthew 10:29-31; Mt 6:26;)

1 John 3:1-3

1. According to vs 1, how does John describe the love God has given us and, as a result, the new identity we have because of it?
2. What future hope do we have as believers and how should it motivate us to live now (vs 2-3)?

1 John 4:16-18

3. What three actions does John say in verse 16 we need to do about the love God has for us?
4. What does John say results from these three actions toward God's love according to verse 17?
5. How does John describe how fear and love relate in vs 18?
6. How does fear affect our relationship with God in comparison to believing we are children of God?
7. How does Proverbs 3:11-12 encourage us to see discipline in light of love and not fear?

Luke 18:17

8. How do Jesus' words about the Kingdom of God correspond to what we have learned so far?
9. How would you describe receiving the Kingdom of God like a child?
10. Do you think most people receive it in this way? Why/why not?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Jesus' confidence in His "day of judgment" on the cross was due to His remaining in His Father's love in spite facing His Father's wrath for our sin. In essence, He remained/trusted His Father's love even when experiencing His Father's wrath! How much more should we be willing to remain in God's love knowing we will NOT experience His wrath (albeit we may experience His discipline for our good)?

- How does Jesus' deep abiding in His Father's love while under His wrath move you to further abide in His love daily?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Name an area/situation in your life you are struggling to fully abide/rest in God's love instead of striving in your strength?
2. How would your attitude change in this area of your life if you remembered and rested in the fact that you are a beloved child of the All-powerful & Good God?
3. How would a deeper abiding and security in God's love empower you to sacrificially love your neighbors or others who don't know Jesus?
4. How does the way in which our church responds to our community reveal how deeply we believe we are loved by God?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.