



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Where does true love come from?

Love Your Neighbor 4 of 7, April 21st, 2024

"Love comes from God, not from us."

1 John 4:7-21 by Orrin Witt

[\[https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/love-your-neighbor-4-where-does-true-love-come-from\]](https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/love-your-neighbor-4-where-does-true-love-come-from)

PLEASE NOTE: transcript is generated automatically and may not be completely accurate.

[Music]

I'm glad to be here, and hopefully by the end of this, you'll be glad I was here, but that's not really the point of all this. I know that you guys always open the sermon time with the disciples prayer,

and so let's do that this morning. You guys have a slide for that? that? I mean, I'm pretty sure you do. Let's go through that. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For your kingdom come. the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen. Well,

we're gonna be in First John this morning. If you wanna be turning there, First John chapter four, as we continue this series called Love Your Neighbor. And it is,

it's so cool for me to get to go somewhere else and just continue the same stuff I've been preaching on because you guys have been here. it too. That's another one of the just the beautiful things about being part of three churches under one umbrella working together.

And that's such a blessing. But as you're turning there to 1 John chapter four, I want to read,

I want to read to you, you don't need to turn there, but as you're turning there, I'm going to read from a parable parable in Matthew before we, I was already in Matthew for the disciples prayer, because it touches on what we're going to be looking at this morning.

And so I'm going to read from Matthew chapter 18, right at the very end. He says, "Therefore the king of heaven," Jesus is speaking, "may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants." And he began to settle,

when he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him 10,000 talent sets. that we don't measure our money and talents, but that is an unimaginable amount of money, more than you would ever see in your lifetime.

And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold with his wife and his children and all he had and payment to be made, so the servant fell on his knees imploring him,

have patience with me and I will pay everything, which is ridiculous because no, he couldn't. and out of pity for him, the master of the servant released him and forgave him the debt.

But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, which is like, you know, a couple hundred bucks maybe. And seizing him,

he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, have mercy, have patience with me, have mercy, have patience with me. and I will pay you." Sound familiar? He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

When his fellow servant saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me,

and should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant." as I had mercy on you." So as we look to 1 John chapter 4, I want that in our mind because that is that is a great example of what Jesus was talking about in that parable is a great example of what this passage in 1 John is about.

So I want to also then I'm gonna read this this passage in 1 John pray and then we'll kind of start picking it apart. I'm going to pick it up here in verse 7, 1 John 4 verse 7,

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God,

because God is love. In this, the love of God was made known." among us, that God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

In this is love. Not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved,

if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God. If we love one another,

God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us because He has given us of His Spirit.

And we have seen and testified that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.

For so we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

By this is love perfected in us so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment because as he is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love,

but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.



If anyone says I love God and hates his brother, he's a liar, for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God,

whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him, whoever loves God, must also love his brother. We pray with me.

me. Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. Thank you so much for your faithful apostles who walked with Jesus,

learned from him, and wrote to us. The apostles, the prophets. God,

we thank you. you for your word. It instructs us. It is profitable. It trains us in righteousness. It rebukes us. God, I pray that as we look deeply at your word this morning,

that you would convict our hearts and encourage our hearts. God, none of us could ever show an act of love like you did.

did and Yet you've called us to love So God, please help us to see How we imperfect as we are Can show your love to those around us in Jesus name.

I feel like we could just close all right, so we're done No, I'm kidding All right, so this passage passage in First John, I've really enjoyed preaching in First John.

I don't think I've ever really appreciated John's writing as much as I have since starting to preach through some of it. Do any of you find his writing style a little bit confusing and redundant?

That's okay. Because the overwhelming majority of the people in here are Western, Western, Western, Western. by definition and are and therefore our Western thinkers,

which means that we think in a straight line Linearly we we tell stories starting at the chronological beginning and then we take it to the end and that makes sense to us That's why the book of Romans makes so much sense to us when we read it because it's written to Western thinkers in Rome John didn't write that way.

John is an Eastern writer, an ancient Eastern writer, writing to an ancient Eastern audience. And he thinks the way they think, and he's writing to people who think that way.

And the point that I want to make is that he's not going to be describing things the way you and I would describe things. If we were writing the same concepts, if we were writing them to each other,

we would write it differently. the way he's writing to people who think the way he's writing to people who think the way he's writing to people who think the way he's writing to people who think the way he's writing to people who think And so it is a worthwhile endeavor for us to dig in a little bit and to see, okay, this isn't just a weird,

repetitive way of saying things. He's being very purposeful. So like in the, you know, Western, I explain this to our people, so I feel like I need to explain it to the people up here.

Karek, should I keep doing this or just move on? So if I'm describing this podium to you, I would say-- so it's round on top and the bottom. It's shiny.



And it's, I guess, a table, really, not a podium. And it has a microphone on it and some books, right? Now, this is a stupid example. But in the way that,

for instance, John is describing love. He would describe this podium like-- it's on the stage. It isn't down on the floor.

It's shiny. It isn't dull. And it's not tall, but it isn't short either. It's kind of like right in the middle. OK, so anyway, I'll stop the example here.

But the point is, he's just kind of describing love. It from all angles, what it is, what it isn't, really what it looks like, how it functions. You're getting a whole picture, not just a quick description.

And so I say that because it can be easy to feel like good grief. He kind of says the same thing four different ways. But it's worth it to realize he's not saying exactly the same thing. He's digging-- it's a little deeper every time.

But one thing, too, that another thing-- I want us to really point out because I think this is gonna help us wrap this whole section together. This section, there's so many short sentences,

it feels like he's just saying a lot of, a lot of, not necessarily random things, but a lot of just short statements. But I want you to see that this is masterful, literary genius.

Unfair advantage, he did write with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. But-- But biblical writers, I mean this is more than literature, but just as a piece of writing that has stood the test of like 2,000 years of time,

this is masterful writing. And I want you to look at verse 12. "No one has ever seen God." That feels like such a random statement.

In the middle of this, you know, "Whoever loves, knows God, and abides in God." By the way, no one's ever seen God. And then like, it keeps going. It's like, okay, I mean, I guess, I mean, it's true, it's in the scripture, I guess,

but I'm not sure why that, what the point was of that. But look at verse 20. If anyone says I love God and hates his brother,

he's a liar for he who does not love his brother, brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. No one has ever seen God. This whole section,

and that's why I want to kind of start with that section where he makes that point, no one's ever seen God and finished with that, because this is one thought. This is one thought together that is, it's not a bunch of disjointed statements.

This is one thought. Incredible what he's pointing out here. We're going to look at what love is, where it comes from, how we know it, how we show it,

and how God showed it. A lot of other things too, but that was how many things I wrote down. So let's dig in here. Let us love one another for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God.

and Knows God anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love, okay? There's a lot there and the point being love comes Love comes out of people that God is in We because of our brokenness this the result of sin have kind of lost the ability in and of ourselves to really love.



I'm not saying that unbelievers can't care for one another. I'm not saying that unbelievers, really they're all in any relationship they're in, they're really just out for themselves.

Well, no, we're made in God's image. Even unbelievers are going to reflect that a little bit in just how He made us. us. But to really love the way it's described here with self-sacrificing love,

the kind of love that sees a need and meets a need, because there's a need expecting nothing in return. I mean this kind of love, like God showed us, the kind of love that overlooks an offense and loves anyway,

this kind of love only comes from God. And the only way it comes out of a person... person is if God is in that person,

God abides in him. That's the point that he's making here, because he's going to talk about love, he's going to talk about how love is shown, but he's first making a point. The source of love is God,

the source of real biblical love is God. It can only come from God, we only know God, like we only know love if we know God. and the only way that we that love comes out of us as if God is abiding in us and verses 9 and 10 here he's gonna he makes this point in this the love of God is made manifest and I love that concept the idea that like this is this is the like like if it materialized in a real thing

we can see the love of God was made manifest It's like all of a sudden it became something you could see and touch and feel and that is the person of Jesus Christ.

When God put skin on, God sent His Son. In this the love of God was made manifest among us that God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

In this, he is loved. In that, in God sending his son that we might live through him. In this, is love. Not that we've loved God. Okay,

so we didn't... God didn't do that because we are so lovely. God didn't do that because we're so great. It's like, "No, I just love these people. They're so great.

They're so great. I'm gonna send my son and go hang out with him." him for a while. No, no Not that we've loved God but that he loved us and sent his son Not to hang out with us.

Not just to hang out with us to be the propitiation for our sins That is a big word that you didn't use this week. I'm almost certain Propitiation Propitiation.

I don't like using-- OK, sometimes I do like using big theological terms. But in preaching, I try not to use unnecessary big theological terms unless they're in scripture.

Well, this one's in scripture, so it's important that we look at it. And what does propitiation mean? Propitiation is the idea of a satisfaction.

We see it in the-- Old Testament as a tone. It is a payment that fulfills a demand.

Just like in that parable that we read in Matthew. In Matthew 18, the parable I like called the parable the choking servant. None of your Bibles have that as the heading. They all say unforgiving servant, but I remember it because he's choking the guy.



[BLANK_AUDIO] Propitiation is a payment that satisfies a demand. The propitiation for our sins,

you see, our sins righteously deserve punishment because if God doesn't punish sin, he's not a God of justice. You know, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and we pray for peace in Ukraine as there's wars around the world and other parts of the world.

places that don't get as much media coverage like Myanmar and things like that where there's just horrible injustice happening to innocent people. And here's the thing, I can assure you that if you lived in one of those places,

the idea that God is a God of justice is more comforting to you than that God is a God of love. God is justice in the same way.

that God is love and in the same way that God is merciful. The only way that God can be merciful and just is if someone else takes the punishment for that sin because sin has to be punished.

If God doesn't punish sin, hear this, if God doesn't punish sin, He is not just. But if He has to punish us for our sins,

we can't endure that. So Jesus became the propitiation for our sins. He took, He paid with His life.

He took the punishment for our sins and God's wrath against that sin was satisfied. That's propitiation. That's why he came. That is love.

In this is love. That's love. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

This idea, again, so well embodied in that story, that parable that Jesus tells, is that when you've been found forgiven so much, how can we hold something against our brother?

And this is the thing, some, statistically speaking, some in this room have endured horrible things at the hands of other people.

The only way we can have the perspective that those things are even forgivable is if we rightly see our sin. Because without really seeing the sinfulness of our sin,

we think, well, yeah, God forgave me, but this person did, you wouldn't believe what I've been through. Okay, I don't want to make light of what anybody has been through.

I want to be really clear about that. I don't want to make light of that at all. I don't have to make light of that to make much of what God has forgiven us. Our sin was enough to break our fellowship with our maker.

Our sin is enough to separate us from him for eternity. And yes, also the sin done against you is enough to separate that person from God for eternity.

But God, being rich in mercy, made a way that we, yes we, and even those who have sinned against us,

can be right with him, can be forgiven. God's going to put us in a place where we can't be forgiven, where we can't be forgiven. our sin. God's also going to punish the sin that someone committed against you. We ought to pray that even those that

have wronged us that they might find forgiveness in Jesus Christ because God has already punished all that sin.

Jesus took it all. But we have to believe in him as we As we get down to verse 15, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God," God abides. Verse 14 is what those people say. Those of us who believe and confess that Jesus is the Son of God,

we have seen and testified that the Father has sent Him. His Son. So anyway, I want to make this case, John is making this case that we ought to love each other.

But he's giving us the reason we ought to love each other. It's not just because, hey, we all need to get along more. Hey, we all need to get over the things that we squabble about.

That's not the reason. Even if those things seem true. that's not why we need to get along. We need to get along because if we are brothers and sisters in Christ, then the love of God is in us,

and if the love of God is in us, the love of God ought to be coming out of us. And also, this is why it's not repetitive, it's just really clear what John is saying is,

if the love of God isn't coming out of you. how do you know the love of God is in you? In fact, John makes it pretty clear that if the love of God never comes out of you,

he says emphatically, "It's not in you." This is a hard pill for us to swallow.

Now if you're sitting here and you don't have have deep wounds caused by other people in your life, it maybe doesn't seem like as big a deal,

but if you're sitting here this morning and you're even thinking to yourself right now, you don't know what I've been through. You don't know me. Well, it's kind of true. I don't know all of you,

and I don't know what you've all been through. through. And it is hard to forgive. It is hard to love all the time.

In fact, the only one who does that perfectly is God. And John makes that point here. But in the same way that the fruit of the Spirit is evidence,

not a to-do list necessarily, Similarly, that's what John is talking about with love. If your life just isn't even marked by this, we need to take a hard look at our lives.

Just like the fruit of the Spirit is not, "Hey, if you're a believer, you should do all these things." Well, I mean, yes and no. The point is, if you're a believer, your life will be marked by these things.

It will be. If the Spirit of God is in you, if you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Spirit, there's fruit that grows on that type of tree, and it looks like this. If this fruit doesn't grow on the tree, then that's not what kind of tree it is.

If you're having a hard time understanding why apples don't grow in Florida, it's because they're not apple trees. Those are orange trees. Okay, so when we look at our lives,

and I say when we look at our lives, the point isn't look at the people around you and decide whether they're Christians or not no the John is writing to individuals

challenging individuals to look at their own lives as we look at our own lives what kind of what kind of fruit grows on the tree is it the fruit of the Spirit or is it the works of the flesh is it love or is it hate?

Is it forgiveness or unforgiveness? If God so loved us we also ought to love one another.

No one's ever seen God. If we love one another God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. There's one way of saying this is that like there is in our pastors group chat is where you know texting about.

you know, how to, a lot of times trying to figure out, how do I boil this sermon, this section, down into like one sentence. And I'm gonna just say, Michael, your pastor, is really good at that. Lakeland's pastor is not as good at that. But one of the things, one of the things that, and I think it was Pastor Michael that said,

that said this is, there is, we are never, we are never, we are never. never more what we were created to be Than when we're loving the people around us God made us in his image to be like him to be To reflect his character and like who he is in creation more than any other created thing and that got broken through sin but But in God's design,

the way that that gets restored, one of the ways that we can return to that design a bit as much as possible is when we love one another. God is love.

God's love became manifest when Jesus Christ came. God sends his son, he dies for our sins. No one endured word.

stuff that he didn't deserve more than Jesus. Nobody. His love is perfected in us.

Now that perfected word, that's going to come up a couple of times here. Perfected in us. That doesn't mean you're going to be perfect this side of eternity, but it's the idea of that love is increasing.

The trajectory of that is more and more like Christ. The believer's life ought to be becoming more and more progressively.

I mean, the next time I come up here, you know, it should probably be like six to nine. nine months or whatever. Next time I'm up here, you ought to be just slightly more like Christ than today.

Five years from now, you should be, well, you're gonna be five years further into your journey as a believer if you are a believer. If you're not a believer,

I hope you're five years into your journey as a believer. But you ought to be just a little further along. You've you've learned you've sat under the teaching of God's word five years more You've you've studied God's word on your own five years more You've you've spent time you've gone through things in your life with your savior by your side five years more You've experienced that love The love of God abiding in you

five years more that ought to change you That ought to perfect you a little bit more. Not that you are all of a sudden, boom, now you're perfect. No, you are-- God is molding you and shaping you.

And you're improving. And this side of eternity, we're never going to be perfect. But on the other side, God is going to restore us to his original design.

And praise him for that. Verse 13, "By this we know we abide in him and he and us because he's given us of his spirit." Okay,

and then he talks about, you know, 14 and 15, he's talking about how that spirit comes into us. When we believe in Jesus Christ and we confess that he is the Son of God,

that he did what he did, for us. The Holy Spirit, His Spirit, comes into us, biblically we call that the indwelling Holy Spirit,

that the Holy Spirit of God comes and makes our bodies its temple. And that affects us. And then verse 16,

"So we have come to know and to believe the love of God." that God has for us." And he repeats here again, "God is love." And whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

In other words, those whose lives are marked by this, those who have received it and experienced it, and are showing it,

that's just evidence. That's oranges growing on the orange tree. What kind of tree is that? Well, look. like an orange tree. There's oranges growing on it. Well, it looks like a believer. There's a believer type fruit growing on the life of this person.

By this we know. By this, verse 17, by this is love perfected in us so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment.

Okay, now he's getting into the next section. I'm going to spend a little bit of time here, and I'm used to preaching a little longer than you guys are used to sitting, and I apologize for that a little bit,

but it's like a sorry not sorry sort of thing. This is really important, because this is where he does the Eastern thing, where he says he's just told us what love is, how we get it, where it comes from,

how it should show itself, and now he's gonna say this is what it's not. This is love. This is not love. This is the table. That's a mic stand.

And what he's saying here, he's going to make this whole point about fear. And he starts with this word confidence so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment.

Confidence for the day of judgment. That sounds like fear, right? That's not sound like fear at all. That sounds like not fear. fear. And so if you have love,

if God abides in you, you are a believer, the Holy Spirit indwells you, you know the love of God. You're not afraid of the judgment to come because you know Jesus was your propitiation.

You know that God's righteous demands, God's wrath against your sin has already been satisfied. You have confidence for the day of judgment. you say come quickly Lord Jesus because you know I get to be with him I'm okay here's what confidence doesn't look like so he goes on and says there is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear for fear has to do with punishment and whoever fears has not been perfected in

love. Again, this is the kind of thing you can only look at yourself and see. This is really hard to see in others. You can look deep in your own heart,

when you're laying there in bed at night, staring up at the ceiling, waiting for your eyes to close, the thoughts that start going through your head. And if there's fear in your heart,

there, what would happen if I didn't wake up? What would happen if I stand before God? I don't know. If you don't know, if there's fear around the idea of judgment, there's fear around standing before God some day, then this is for you. There is no fear in love. I want to make a point there. There's a lot of fear.

fear outside of love. If we have not experienced the love of God through salvation, by faith in Christ,

we ought to fear. Jesus said, "Do not fear them that can kill the body. Fear the one who can kill the body and soul in hell." Oh,

sure, there's stuff that matters in your life. But there is no that matters more than eternity. Think about the thing that's bothered you most this week.

The thing that's been sucking up all the mental energy and emotional energy. The thing this week that you've gone through that's just oh can't even see the other side of it.

I just want to ask, five years from now, do you think that thing still matters to you? Maybe, probably not, but maybe. 10 years from now? How about 150 years from now?

You're not going to probably be breathing here, OK? OK, but we're eternal. Our souls are eternal. You'll be somewhere.

And there's something that is going to matter to you a lot, a hundred and fifty years from now, a thousand years from now. And that's whether or not you're right with God. That's gonna matter more than any of the other stuff that you care so much about right now.

I'm not saying those things don't matter, but they don't matter as much as that. Nowhere near as much There is no fear in love. There is legitimate fear outside of love.

See here's the thing bad theology hurts people bad theology corrupts love And if you maybe grew up in a house with parents who's whose way of loving you involved fear?

That's not what God's love looks like And you see what when we when we don't love the way that God loves We distort and corrupt what love is supposed to look like for other people There's no fear in love You see,

if our love for each other is shown in a way that keeps others in fear, we distort what God's love looks like.

This is especially important for parents. It also... corrupts this,

that God shows his love most often to us through others. His spirit living in other believers.

This is one of the reasons it's so important for us to be in community, not just like hanging out with, but in a committed relationship with other believers. That's why,

why we have to be in community, not just like hanging out with, have a partnering class next week. And I can say that because we do. We also have one next Sunday in Lakeland. You can come to either, but you'll probably want to come to this one.

It's way less driving. I thought it was funny. I was like, wait, didn't you make-- oh, OK. It's the time's different. That one's in O'Cal. But that's why-- what do you want to call it, partnering or like church membership?

But the idea that you are in, a committed relationship with other believers, that you are in a committed relationship with other believers, that you are in a committed relationship with other believers, that you are in a committed relationship relationship with the body of Christ. This is a group of people, a group of believers that I'm committed to.

I'm committed to, with my time, I'm committed to, with my resources, my money, I'm committed with my abilities. I'm committed to showing up and sitting under the instruction and teaching.

teaching. I'm committed to, and this one can rub people the wrong way when we don't understand what church is, but we even commit to submitting to spiritual authority of others.

Because we know that apart from God, our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately sick. Thank you. wicked and we need accountability.

We need others to call us out to rebuke us, to admonish us, to encourage us, but to come alongside and say, "Hey, I see this in your life and God's calling you to better than that and we can help you because we're in a committed relationship as a church family." We say around here,

I'm pretty sure Michael says it up here. I know we say it a lot. in Lakeland, that church is more than just a place to attend. It's a family to belong to. You were going to say it,

I know you were. It's a family to belong to. You know, just quit the family. We stick by each other even in really tough times, even when we're getting on each other's nerves,

even when we've hurt one another. We stay in it and we commit and we resolve it and that shows the love of God. God is restoring us to himself and to each other.

Relationships are so important. God will show us his love through others, and will use us to show his love to others. Loving God means loving what and who he loves.

There's no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear for fear has to do with punishment and whoever fears has not been perfected by love.

You know here's the thing I'm sorry to make this point if you grew up in a house where you had parents or a parent who showed you fear that involved a lot showed you love in a way.

way that involved a lot of fear, you're predisposed, you're biased to have a distorted view of God's love. God's love isn't like that. Be encouraged at that.

God's not holding a grudge against you. God, if you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as a payment for your sins, God has forgiven your sins.

He's not gonna hold that over your head. He's not gonna use that to manipulate you. He's not gonna jab you every now and then, and just say, hey, yeah, but remember, no.

Perfect love casts out fear. But here's the thing for us, the memory of that, that links us back to that verse,

where he says, "If God so loved, loved us, we ought to love one another." If God can forgive us, we can forgive others. If God can show us love that we didn't deserve or even ask for,

we can do the same. This next verse you were possibly familiar with and maybe you knew where it was and maybe you didn't.

I love that. that when you're like reading and passing, and you're like, I don't know if I've ever read this book before, and then you get, oh, I know that verse. And maybe that was the case for you with this more familiar verse here, where he says that not that we loved God,

but that he first loved us. And then here, in, yeah, verse 19, we love because he first loved us.

I mean, that's a, that's a lot. link to Ephesians chapter 2 While we were yet sinners Christ died for us You know apart from God's demonstration of love We wouldn't even know what it is and our love reflects God our maker We are in his image our love should reflect that it brings him glory because when we love others the way that he has instructed us to,

we are proclaiming what he's like. God's word proclaims what God is like. God's people ought to be proclaiming what he is like and not just with our words but with our lives. I love the way that John moves from kind of some abstract,

almost not theoretical but just concept things and ends with practical things. And this is The Takeaway. I don't even have to distill this because it's right here. He who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

And this commandment we have from him-- here it is-- whoever loves God must also love his brother. And I'm going to close this.

with this verse. Just look a couple of verses into chapter five. Verse four, "His commandments are not burdensome." That's an important reminder for us.

We're not gonna be covering that. We're gonna be in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 next week. We're gonna look at what love is and what love isn't from the Apostle Paul's writing there. But, here's the thing God has commanded us to love one another God has commanded us because the body of Christ must reflect what God is like to the world we have to that's what we're called to that is it's not even just like hey you're gonna hate this but God tells you you have to do it no God is also laying this out as the pathway to human flourishing. This is going to be the best scenario for you and that's to live in peace and harmony and forgiveness and love with the believers around you.

Your life will be better when we follow the plan God has set for us. We kick against his design in any area. It is misery.

God's plan is peace and flourishing. His commandments are not burdensome. Here's your takeaway for this morning. Ready? Love one another.

We have to. Let's pray. Father God, thank you for your word. And sometimes, sometimes hard to hear and sometimes it's just hard to do.

And so we thank you even more for your indwelling Holy Spirit that enables us. Because God, especially for those who have been through just incredible hardship at the hands of others,

you know that it's not in us, naturally, apart from you, to forgive. It's not in us. us to love when we have been hurt.

And so it's only through your indwelling spirit that we're even able to do that. And so God, I just pray that you would convict hearts this morning and encourage hearts this morning.

God, those there's any sitting here that have that have not received that propitiation. If there's any here that sit here this morning and there's fear around the idea of a just God and judgment,

"God, I pray that you would convict where necessary that I need to place their faith and trust in you." And then once we have God,

I pray that you would just just encourage our hearts to know for sure that you're not holding that against us anymore. You've given us your spirit to show what you're like to the world around us.

Thank you for your church. Thank you for your people. God, you're so good to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

[Music]