

**LOVE**



**FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**

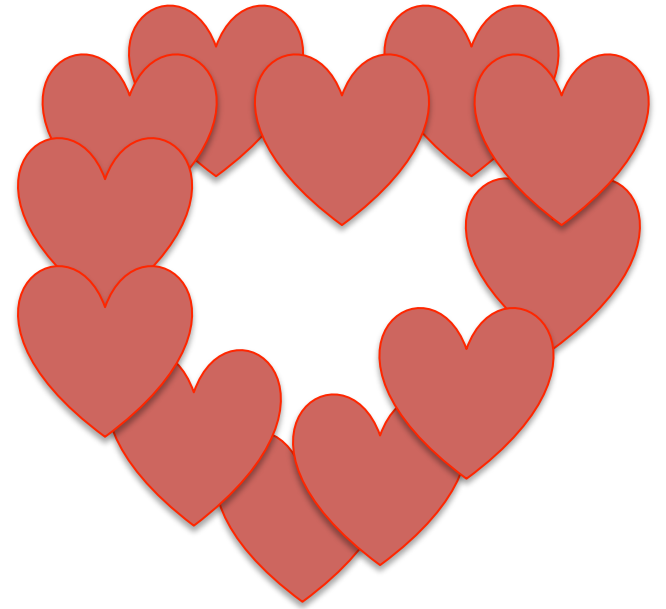
# God is Love

***“...times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”***

Ac 3:20 (ESV)



What is  
Love?





# What is Love?

*“That state of feeling with regard to a person which arises from recognition of attractive qualities, from sympathy, or from natural ties, and manifests itself in warm affection and attachment.” Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*



# What is Love?

**I Corinthians  
13:4-8a (ESV)**

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

***“For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son...”***

*The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.*

*Ex 34:6-8 (ESV)*

*...you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

*Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face.*

*Dt 7:6-10a (ESV)*



# *Why Would I be Included?*

*It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, ... but it is because the LORD loves you...*

Dt 7:7,8a (ESV)

# Hesed



“loving kindness,”  
“faithfulness,” “steadfast  
love,” or “mercy”



“covenant-keeping  
love”



*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 manifest 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.*

*1 Jn 4:7-11 (ESV)*

# God is Love

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.     Jn 3:16-17 (ESV)*

# God is Love

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## **Nicodemus**

- Believed
- Was not yet a recipient of God’s salvation
- Came to Jesus by night
- Was brought face-to-face with the living God

# God is Love

It all starts with God



- Creator of all
- given us instruction in right living
  - absolutely righteous
  - final Judge of all

# The Reason for the Season

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him **should not perish** but have eternal life.*

↓  
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↘  
we had already done  
that for ourselves!

# Perish



“destroy”



*Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed*  
(Mt 9:17)



“lose”



*For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it*

(Mt 16:25)

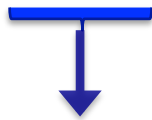


lose true life...  
to forfeit eternal life...



# Sermon on the Mount

*If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell (Mt 5:29)*



Gehenna,  
Valley of Henna



Jerusalem  
garbage dump



Illustration - final  
destination of those  
who refuse the mercy  
and grace of God

# Eternal Life

- usefulness, abundance, joy, and completeness
- life with, for, and in the Presence of the eternal God Himself

“...this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”  
Jn 17:3 (ESV)

“...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”  
Ps 16:11 (ESV)

**HEAVEN – THE GREATEST DESTINATION!**

# God so loved...

- *so he gave his only Son...*
- *so dearly so intensely, so passionately, loved and prized the world, that he gave his only Son....*
- *In spite of us...*
- *knowing that we would turn on Him, and publicly crucify Him*
  - *Jesus is risen!*

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**God chose to  
redeem us**



**choose to receive  
that redemption**

# Belief in Him

-  merely giving ascent...
-  trust Him with your life

# Belief in Him

**X** merely giving  
ascent...

**✓** trust Him with  
your life



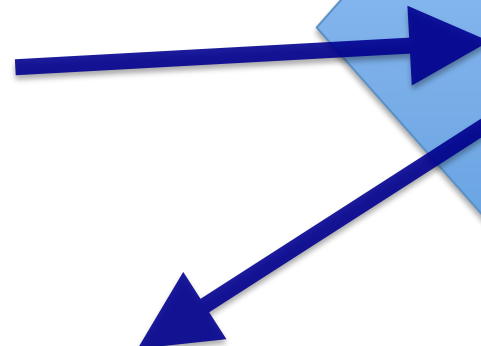
**Make this  
your  
choice  
today**



**Give Him your love and trust  
Receive all the more from Him**

# Belief in Him

- X** merely giving ascent...
- ✓** trust Him with your life



**Make this  
your  
choice  
today**

**Give Him your love and trust  
Receive all the more from Him**

**That is the true meaning of Christmas!**

*..God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in  
him should not perish but  
have eternal life. For God  
did not send his Son into  
the world to condemn the  
world, but in order that the  
world might be saved  
through him.*

Jn 3:16-17 (ESV)





*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

1 Jn 3:1-2 (ESV)