



Title: God's Love

Date: December 4, 2022

Scripture Text: Romans 5:8-11

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We continue our celebration of Advent with the focus this week on LOVE. Advent is an opportunity to remember the birth of Jesus while waiting for His return (celebrating His first coming while we look forward to His second). The birth of Jesus (Christ becoming flesh to dwell amongst us ([John 1:14](#))) and His redemptive work (paying the penalty for our sins) are the proof of His love for us. As such, they should motivate our love for Him and for others. Let us take this opportunity to gain a greater understanding of God's love.

I. The Demonstration of God's Love ([Romans 5:8](#))

This verse begins with "But God" referring back to [vss. 6-7](#), which describes our helplessness to save ourselves and how undeserving we are to receive God's love. Yet, based on God's timing, He sent His Son to die for our sins. We were unworthy and had done nothing to initiate a love for Him. He solely acted and initiated His love for us by sacrificing His only Son for us. Love is a verb, requiring action. God showed us how much He loved us. When was the last time you showed God how much you love Him?

- Describe in your own words how God showed His love for you.
- What are examples of showing our love for God?
- What are ways you can increase your love for God each day?

II. Impact of God's Love ([Romans 5:9-10](#))

By being the recipient of God's love, we are saved for Him and saved from His wrath. It says in [vs. 9](#) that by Christ's blood we are *justified*. To be justified means to be declared right before God. To be declared innocent and free from the punishment that comes with sin. Our justification did not come by anything we have done, or can do (works), but wholly and completely by what God did for us through Christ. It is for us to accept or reject it.

- How can we enjoy the impact of the love of God in the midst of the challenges of our circumstances?
- How can the way we enjoy of the impact of God's love influence or encourage others?

Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

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III. The Reaction to God's Love (Romans 5:11)

The experience of God's love initiates response. It is a time to celebrate and boast of the One Who loves us. The act of God's love creates a reaction on our part. That reaction is directly related to the degree of our experience of His love. In [John 13:35](#) Jesus says; "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Let God's love motivate you, inspire you, enable you, and satisfy you to obey Him (if you love Me, you will keep My commandments, [John 14:15](#)) and to show His love to others.

- What are examples of individuals in the Bible reacting to God's love?
- What are ways people today respond to the love of God?
- How have you reacted to God's love?
- How can remembering God's love affect your celebration of Christmas?

There is no one who will save us except the One who loved us so much that while we were yet sinners, he died for us. Do you see what ground this gives for us to hope? For before this there were two difficulties in the way of our being saved. First, we were sinners, and second, our salvation required the Lord's death, something which was quite incredible before it happened and which required enormous love for it to happen at all. But now that it has happened, the rest becomes that much easier.

John Chrysostom (347 – 407 AD)