

Sermon Handout

The Origin of Love

I John 4:7-10

I. God's Love

- a. Not inherent in a particular word, but in our knowledge of God
 - i. Displayed in **God's action** v. 9; I Jn 3:16; Jn 3:16-17
 - ii. Seen in **the work of Jesus** v. 10; I Jn 2:2 *cf.* Rom 3:24-25
- b. Love is of God – God is the source of love
 - i. The Apostles are “of God” – his true messengers v. 6a
 - ii. True faith manifests as reflection of God's love v. 7
 - iii. Genuine love in people comes only from God v. 7b
- c. God is love v. 8
 - i. Love is not a **definition** of God.
 - Otherwise, we could reverse the statement: “Love is God.”
 - ii. Love is an inseparable characteristic of God
 - 1. Love is part of God's essential self
 - 2. It does not stand alone; it is fully combined with other facets
 - iii. God's love is explained in vv. 9-10 (He loves his creation)

II. Love originates in God

- a. He first loved us v. 10 *cf.* Rom 5:8
- b. Therefore, we are to love one another vv.7, 11; Lev 19:18; Gal 5:14
 - i. One loving is “begotten of God” v. 7b *contra* v. 8
 - ii. Our love is said to reflect the character of the God we serve
 - iii. Therefore, our duty is to keep his commandments 2:4-11
 - iv. Keeping his commandments is evidence of our abiding 3:23-24

III. Love and the Ten Commandments

- a. Loving people is tied to the Second Table Rom 13:8-10
- b. However, love is not merely slavish avoidance of outward crimes
 - i. Otherwise, salvation would be of works Gal 2:16; Rom 3:20
 - ii. This was the error of the Pharisees Mt 5:18-20
- c. We are called to recognize the underlying prohibited sins Gal 5:19-23
 - i. Sixth Commandment: Murder Mt 5:21-22
 - ii. Seventh Commandment: Adultery Mt 5:27-28
 - iii. The whole law stands together Jas 2:8-11
 - iv. Cleanse your hands and your hearts Jas 4:7-8 *cf.* Dt 6:6, 8