**Series on God #3**

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17 and Mark 10:17-22 & 1 John 4:7-20

**Singing:** 279:1-4 – 38:1, 5 – 399:1-4 -- 304:1-3, 7 – 422:4-5

**Intro**. *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God.*  2 Thess. 3:5a

 *Then Jesus beholding him, loved him.* Mark 10:21a

**God: The God of Love**

I. How do we know He is the God of love? II. How is God the God of love? III. What is this truth to do to us?

I. How do we know He is the *God of love*

A. John speaks about the *stream of love* 1 John 4:7-21

 1. He knows/sees/experiences *love among the brethren*

 2. Love has a universal language everyone hungers for

 3. Love is first of the nine fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

 4. Love is the greatest power in the universe (Rom. 1:16; John 3:16)

B. What is the *fountain of true love*?

 1. John reasons from the *stream to the fountain:* God is love (4:7-8)

a. “If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is

 perfected in us.”

II. How is God the God of Love?

A. God’s love is *infinite and therefore unsearchable*

 1. to comprehend the *breadth, and length, and depth and height of the*

 *love God in Christ is something that passes knowledge* (Eph. 3:18)

B. ‘God is love’ is the central perfection of His moral Being

 1. God doesn’t reveal Himself as *God is justice – is holiness – is wisdom*

 2. God is love is *His essential Being*

 a. all other moral attributes receive their glory from God is love

III. The God of love reveals Himself to draw us

A. The God of love *loves what is unlovely*

 1. Consider the objects of His love: *rich ruler – persecuting hater*

a. God so loved the *world* (John 3:16-17)

B. God reveals that *His love isn’t prompted – attracted* by anything in us

 1. His love is *free – spontaneous: He* ***loved first despite everything***

 2. What application do you draw? How do you respond to this?

 a. Isn’t that *hope-giving?*

b. Isn’t this *astonishing?*

C. The God of love *loves infinitely*

 1. The words God and love are *sacred* *synonyms*

 a. Don’t limit the God of love by our narrow-minds

D. The God of love made His love *incarnate* in His Son Jesus Christ

 1. To save a sinner involves various attributes but none more than love

 a. justice, holiness, wisdom, power was all involved

 b. but love originated the great plan of salvation: John 3:16

Finally: ***Come and adore Him, this God of love!***

A. Why harbor any hard thoughts of Him?

B. Consider God’s actions from our fall to now

 1. 1 John 4:9 *In this was manifested the love of God towards us,*

 *because that God sent His only begotten Son in to the world, that we might live through Him.*

 2. John 3:17 *God sent not His Son to condemn the world but that the*

 *world might be saved*

 3. Acts 3:26 *Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities*