

Questions

1. Think about how popular culture uses the word *love*. What does it commonly mean to the world? How would you define love?
2. What limitations do 1 John 4:7-8 put on our understanding of love and where love comes from and who can truly love?
3. 1 John 4:13-16 draws the connection between assurance that is based on our belief in the truth and assurance that is based on loving brethren. Can you see that connection? How do you know that God set His love on you (see especially v. 14)?
4. In what ways are you growing in truly loving God and loving brothers and sisters in Christ? What are some examples of that love in action?
5. Read 1 John 4:2. Examine how you are actively showing love to God. What are you sacrificing for Him? In what ways does His will override your desires?
6. What is your identity as a believer in Jesus Christ (4:7; 5:1)? What does that have to do with how you love?
7. How does the fact that "God is love" relate to believers as those who have overcome the world? What does that mean for you?

After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.

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A Sermon Series on 1 John

ASSURANCE

God is Love

1 John 4:7-5:5

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor

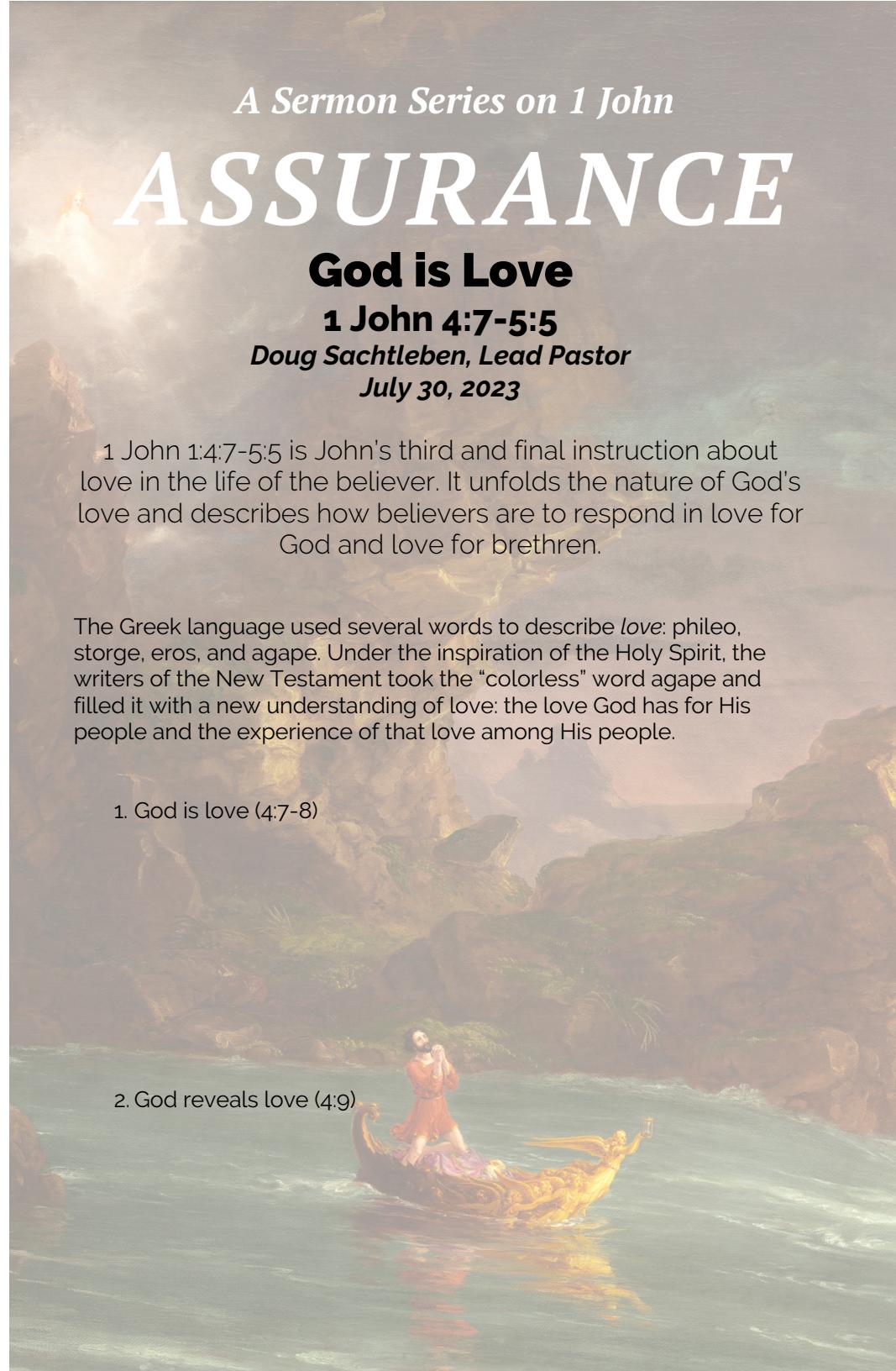
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1 John 1:4:7-5:5 is John's third and final instruction about love in the life of the believer. It unfolds the nature of God's love and describes how believers are to respond in love for God and love for brethren.

The Greek language used several words to describe *love*: phileo, storge, eros, and agape. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the writers of the New Testament took the "colorless" word agape and filled it with a new understanding of love: the love God has for His people and the experience of that love among His people.

1. God is love (4:7-8)

2. God reveals love (4:9)



3. God initiates love (4:10, 19)

6. Remember your identity, as born of God (4:7; 5:1)

4. God matures love (4:12-18)

7. Remain in love (4:11-12, 15-16)

5. God commands love (4:20-21; cf. 3:23; 5:1-3)