

Our fourth week of the Advent season and we are focusing on Advent Love.

What is Love? How do we define Love? How does the world define Love?

"The love of God is the hardest of all his attributes to speak about. You may not understand God's love for us. I don't know that I do myself. We are trying to comprehend the incomprehensible. It is like trying to take the ocean in your arms, or embrace the atmosphere, or rise to the stars. No one can do it, so I suppose I must do the best I can and trust the Holy Spirit to make up for human lack." AW Tozer, *The Attributes of God*, Volume 2

"God cannot separate himself into parts and do with one attribute one thing, and with another, another. All that God is, determines all that God does. So when God redeems man in love, or damns another in justice, he's not contradicting himself, but justice and love are working together in the unitary being of God." AW Tozer, *The Attributes of God*, Volume 2

God Is Love

1. Love Wills the Good of its object

Vs. 9, "this is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

2. Love Emotionally Identifies with its object

v. 16, "We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him."

Hebrews 2:6, "What is man that you remember him? Of the son of man that you are concerned about him?"

3. Love takes Pleasure in its object

Vs 10, "This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us."

Zephaniah 3:17, "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

4. Love takes Action for its object

v. 10, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

CS Lewis in *A Grief Observed* wrote concerning the death of his wife to bone cancer

For the first time in my relatively easy life, I was tasting heartache (and oh if only I knew how much more would come). And it was there that Jesus showed me the heart of Christmas. Jesus stepped down to pursue the broken and the hurting and the lost.

If this year broke you down. Isolated you. Left you grieving or fearful or hurt. I want you to know that you don't have to muster up cheer. You don't have to feel like a downer in the midst of celebration. You can sit at the feet of a savior who came for you where you're at right now. That's how Immanuel works. It's God with us in the dirt giving us hope in the face of despair.

"Those who walk in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in spaces of deepest darkness a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2