



THE VISION IS LOVE

The Love That Is God

01.07.2024

1 John 4:7-12, 16

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Luke 24:13-35

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

“Dear children, let us love one another, for love comes from God.”

God is love.

A Community Following Jesus, Seeking Renewal in Our City.

What is this Love that is God?

1 John 4:8-10

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

“Love is naturally the first act of the will and appetite.”

- Thomas Aquinas

“To love is to be drawn toward something by desiring it or to delight in something by possessing it.”

- Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt

“To love is the choice to will the good of the other.”

- Thomas Aquinas

Love is the desire for and delight in someone or something's goodness.

God's love is active rather than reactive.

“We see these things you have made because they exist, but they exist because you see them.”

- St. Augustine

“To say that God is love is to say that God is not simply the kind of thing that loves but is the activity of loving itself—not our human act of love, not even the sum total of such acts, but an activity that is prior to and the source of our human being and knowing and desiring, an act of love so vast and deep that it brings forth creatures in all their diversity: ravines and rivers, sassafras and sequoias, bacteria and border

collies. To say that God is love is to say that God is a benevolence, a well-wishing, a kindness of such infinite scope that it draws beloved creatures out of nothingness into being. The God who is love, as St. Paul says, ‘gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist’”

- Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt

1 John 4:9-10

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

1. The love that is God is not our human love.
2. The love that is God is shown by God becoming human so that we might live through God.
3. The love that is God is shown by God dying for our sins.

John 17:20-21, 23

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me...I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.