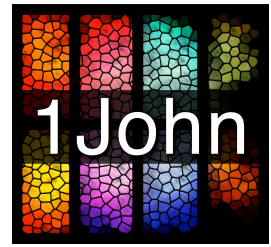


1 John
4. 17-21
April 7, 2013
Luke Knight



Last Week – Resurrection Sunday

- Easter Means God is Love / Eternal Life

What John's Getting At / Greater Passage

- The importance of Jesus and the expression of love
- Jesus and love an indivisible couple – love emanates from Jesus
- Secular culture and *Love Worship*
- Christian culture and *Brand Jesus*
- Not about trying so hard, more about knowing Jesus and him working in us

V17

- Two Encouraging thoughts:
- No fear in God
- The way you are now is not the way you will be later
- Crux of Entire Passage - *As Christians we are people of belief and confession in Christ, who leads us into action and influence.*
- James- faith and works / Paul Rom 12 – transformational work
- This kind of living (*belief leading to action*) is the Spirit of God's transformational work in us. When we're really loving, then we're really living! The Life of God is a Life of Love
- God's love and life in us will mean God's love and life in others
- *In a hole in the ground there lived a Hobbit...*
- Bilbo really comes alive when he finds purpose in serving his friends.

V18

- If we fear, we shouldn't.
- That wooden thing on the back wall is there to remind us of that. A God who gives his life for us...
- Christians don't lack love for others because they're greedy or selfish or hoarding it all to themselves. It is impossible for God's love to pour in and not flow out. It's transformational thing.
- *"Once you know God you have a responsibility to be like him."* John Walton

V19 We love each other because he loved us first.

- The rocking chair

- This is why v19 is so important. *At this point in the letter John's interweaving the experience of God's love with our expression of it to others almost seamlessly.*

V20-21

- Interesting how Jesus *commands* this of his followers. It's a transformational work, but that doesn't mean we're not participating in it.
- Belief leads to both the action **of God in us and through us**

God's great love evicts any fear we might harbor about how he feels towards us, or what the future holds. This love will seamlessly flow to others when we deal graciously with them...and graciously as God has with us.

- What has God's love replaced in your life?
- What does it still need to replace?
- What area have you seen God transform that you preciously felt disheartened about?
- What are of your life do you have hope that God will continue to transform and renew?
- What will God's love through you replace in the lives of those around you this week?