**Why Church Matters**

God’s Instrument of Loving Others Part 3 of 5

1 John 4:7-21 (NLT)

Loving in Abundance

**Matthew 22:37-40** (The Great Commandment: Love God. Love Others.)

As followers of Jesus this is central to our identity, but all too often our actions and our attitudes fall short of embodying this commandment of love.

You can’t describe what love is without beginning with *who God is*. They are inseparable. Yet sometimes we struggle to see God entirely from a vantage point of love. We have made love a by-product of God, not his core identity. And if love is only a by-product, God’s love becomes distorted outwardly in how we seek to love others.

**1 John 4:7-21**

The truth is: Love is God (v. 8) and Love comes from God (v. 7) It’s not only who He is. It’s what He does. The greatest example of this is through Jesus (v. 9-10). Out of the extravagance and abundance of who He is, God gives us Jesus.

And out of God’s love, we become filled by His love. However, we often don’t allow God’s love to completely fill our lives. We settle for only a part of God’s love because of our busyness and our inability to make our own spiritual lives a priority.

**Revelation 3:20 and Luke 10:38-42**

* For some, Jesus is standing on the outside of our lives, knocking, and waiting to be invited in.
* For others, we’ve let Jesus inside but instead of being fully engaged and present, we are busying doing *for God* (like Martha), rather than *being with* God (Mary).

God doesn’t need us to do. God desires us to be. And out of being, God gives and fills us with His love.

It is only after you are first filled with God’s love in your live, that you can actually attempt to love outwardly to others. “*And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. John 4:17”*

As God’s love continues to fill and pour into us so that same abundance continues to overflow outwardly in how we love others. It doesn’t matter who is the recipient of this love, as God’s love fills, we want *all* to experience that same love.

God’s invitations for you:

1. Allow God’s love to fill you
2. Love others abundantly as God’s love continues to fill you