

**Sermon: Knowing God's Love.**

**Series: Love Where You Live.**

**Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21.**

**Date: June 1, 2025**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

a) John says that perfect love casts out fear. Are you living in any relational fear with others? With God? This week, has God revealed any ways that you are still trying to earn his love?

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) "God is love." How does this statement contrast the world's mantra: "Love is love?"

b) In what way does this passage describe/define God's love for us? How is the Trinity related to this definition of divine love? How is the cross related to this definition of divine love?

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Read verse 7. Why must we know God and be born of God (saved) BEFORE we can love others (see verse 19 also to see the order of our salvation)? Compare this also with Galatians 2:20 – "faith in the one who loved me." In what ways is our love for others FROM faith in Christ?

b) John reminds us of the sending of Christ and his propitiating death for us on the cross (propitiation = satisfying God's wrath). How does the cross demonstrate that love must be both given and received? Are you able to both give and receive love? How does our union with the cross allow us to both give and receive love without fear?

**APPLICATION**

a) Is there anyone that you are tempted to give up on loving? How can this passage encourage you to continue loving even this difficult person?

b) "Perfect love casts out fear." Is there anyone who fears you? How can you use the love of Christ in you to cast out the fear of someone else in your life?

c) Have you thought about how you can show the love of God during Grace Gives (or another church ministry)?

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for loving us first.
- Confess your inability to love this way, as God loves you.
- Thank Jesus for being the propitiation for our sins, which allows us to love from freedom of condemnation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live as Christ in the world, loving even the difficult people.