

**February 11, 2007**

**Sermon: "How to Be Filled with God's Love:**

**Scripture: I John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup>We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

<sup>16</sup>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 him. <sup>17</sup>In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

### **Introduction**

- What is it that makes Christianity so unique? It's summed up in one word - LOVE!
- John 13:35, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 5:43-45
- If you want to make a difference in the world; do it by loving others.
- There are three thoughts about love I want us to focus on.

### **I. We must know what love is. (I John 4)**

- Love will sacrifice to make things right. (V.10)
- Love empowers others to do what's right. (V.9)
- Love replaces fear with security. (V.17-18)
- Proverbs 1:7

### **II. We must experience God's love firsthand.**

- To give God's love you must first receive God's love. (V.7,19)
- Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 8:1

### **III. We must show God's love to others. (V.12)**

- So, how do we show God's love?
- We sacrifice in order to make things right with others.
- We do what we can to empower others to live right.
- We build relationships with others not based on fear but on security.

### **Conclusion**

- Do you want to be filled with God's love? You can!
- I John 4:16, "Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him. In this way, love is made complete among us."