

What We Want For You | 1 John 4:7-12

- I. **INTRO:** Christmas Eve, Covid, and Trust. Next Week: Back on Luke and will finish this Spring!
 - A. Today, as we jump into 2022, want 2B clear about what we want 4U. Praying. Strategizing.
 1. To do that: 1 John 4:7-12. I have things to say but the Bible said it first. Need you to see that.
- II. **1 John 4:7-12** - a letter to churches under John's care. (Start Scripture Doodle Slide)
 - A. **1 John 4:7-8**
 1. v.7a: Beloved - to Christians. Command to love one another. The Bible always provides the why behind the what of a command. Never arbitrary.
 2. v.7b: Not just any love. A unique godly kind of love that comes from being in rel. w/ God.
 3. v.8: Relationship b/w knowledge and love. Knowledge of God = Love for others. Love for others comes from a knowledge of God. Cannot unlink b/c GOD IS LOVE (definition).
 - a) Not saying that God is simply this idea of love, peace, harmony. No, God Himself, the person of God, provides us the definition of love through His actions towards us. —>
 - B. **1 John 4:9-10**
 1. v.9: Manifest: God will show us what it means to love one another.
 2. Four Characteristics of the Love of God:
 - a) For our Good. (“...so that we might live...”)
 - b) Goes first. (“...not that we loved God but he loved us...”)
 - c) Costly (“...to be the propitiation for our sins...”)
 - d) With intimate knowledge (“...not that we loved...”)
 - (1) All-knowing. Thoughts/motivations. He loves while knowing everything about us.
 - C. **1 John 4:11-12**
 1. v.11: Command - recap four ways.
 2. v.12: This is how we display God to the world. Through how we love one another.
- III. **This is What I Want for You This Year at Grace Hill Church.** (Stop Scripture Doodle)
 - A. **Grow in your Knowledge of God and His Word.**
 1. **Unbelievers:** Grow in your knowledge of how God has loved you.
 - B. **Grow in your love for others.** Unique godly kind of love.
 1. That your knowledge of the Word of God would actually be translated into love for others.
 2. **What Shakes My Faith: How poorly Christians can treat one another.**
 - C. **Others Will Grow in Their Love for You.**
 1. That this will be place where you can truly be known. In the same way that God loves us, that this will be a safe place for you to be fully known by others and still loved.
- IV. **How Are We Going to This? 3 things I want to call you to commit to & fight for consistency in.**
 - A. **Gathering for Worship** - God ordained that His people be together every week.
 1. There is an inseparable link between going in knowledge of God and love for one another.
 - B. **Studying the Bible** - New Format - Sunday evenings, 7:30pm, starting next week.
 1. Sunday nights - aimed at your head. Grow in your command/understanding of the Word.
 - C. **Committing to a Community Group**
 1. Unique CG philosophy here. Not more Bible/Book Studies. Our groups are a space for us to grow in our knowledge and love for one another.
 - a) We believe that growing in your knowledge of God and growing in love for one another are linked together. Inseparable. We just studied that in Scripture.
 - b) **See there is a difference b/w knowing things *about* God and knowing God.** You can grow in your knowledge of facts about God and theology and not grow in your love for others. But if you actually know God...then you'll grow in your love for others.
 - c) **v.12** - There's a depth of knowledge/intimacy w/ God that's found in loving one another.
 - (1) Sunday Night = grow in our knowledge of the Word (Head). Wednesday night = grow in our knowledge of one another in light of what the Word of God says.
 2. **Four C's**
 - a) Commitment and Consistency - cannot love one another (like God) without these.
 - b) Curiosity - cannot create a safe place for people to be known without curiosity.
 - c) Content is One Another in Light of the Word of God.
- V. **Conclusion - This is what we want for you.**