



Investing in Relationships

Part 1

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Introduction

1. **God thinks relationships are important**
 - a. God is Love
 - b. He is a relational Being
 - c. Love started back in the Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis
 - d. God makes Adam a mate from his rib, Eve
2. **God exists as Father, Son, Holy Spirit**
 - a. God has always been in relationship
 - b. The language used to describe God is relational (Father, Son)
3. **Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**
 - a. Koinonia
 - b. Jesus taught the disciples to pray and used "OUR FATHER"
 - c. We are the family of God

Question: Why do we _____ in _____ as followers of Christ?

1 John 4:7-8

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NOTES

1. Beloved _____ Like God

- a. God calls us “beloved”
- b. Agapete- from the word Aagape
- c. This word is important for our author John
- d. This takes us all the way back to Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)
- e. God calls Jesus His “Beloved Son”
- f. **Ephesians 5:1-2** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- g. Look like God

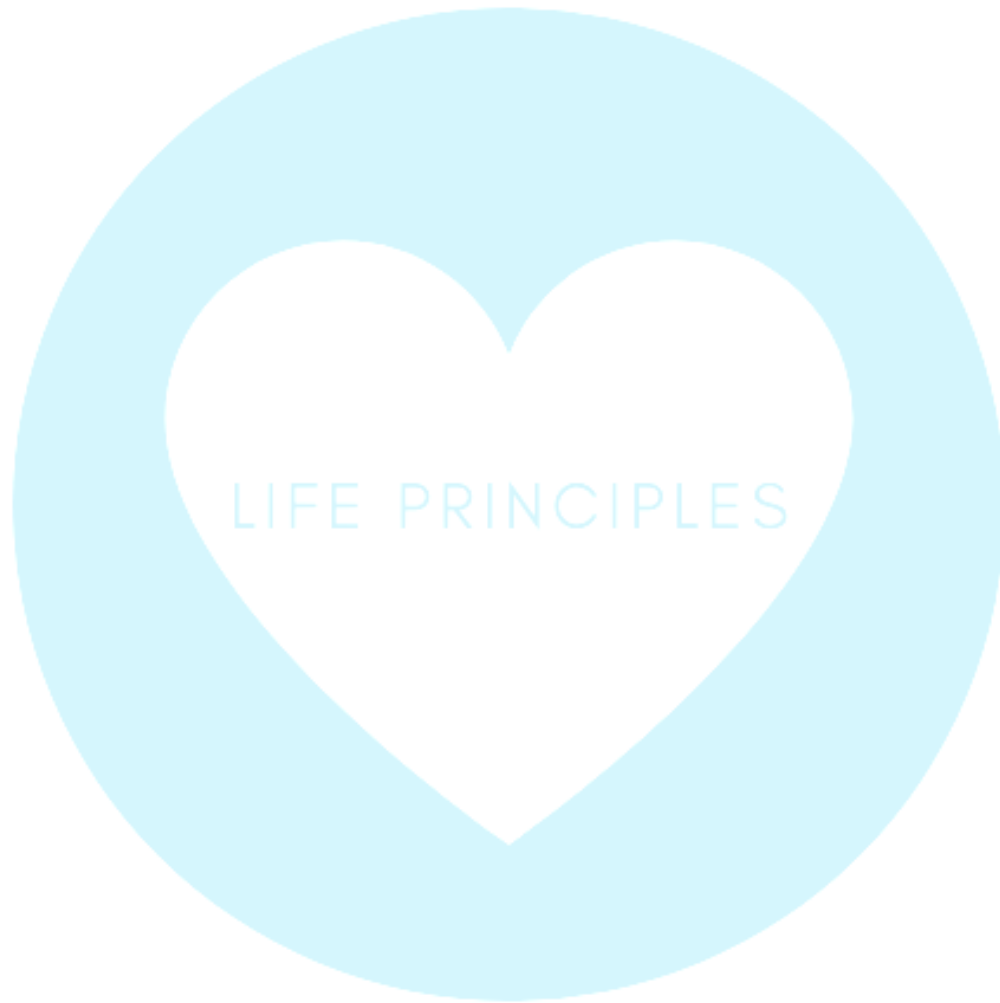
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2. Let us love one another _____ not Optional

- a. John is speaking to the Church like his children
- b. John gives us a call as the Church
- c. This "love" is a call to obedience
- d. Jesus gives us two commands
 - i. **Mark 12:28-34** And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with



all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much





more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

- ii. Love God, Love your neighbor as yourself
- e. Investing in relationships is messy
- f. Obedience is not an option
- g. **Revelation 2:1-7** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

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Questions for Reflection

1. **Have you ever considered the fact that God calls you Beloved? What does that mean to you?**
2. **How can you look more like love?**
3. **What is your response to the fact that Love is a call to obedience?**
4. **Have you forgotten your first love? How can you get back into right relationship?**