

RTCWG3: 1 John 4:7-10 LOVE: DEFINED

On a journey – I'm going to make myself available after teachings in Beyond – man on street

ATLANTIC "America appears to be the only country in the world where love is a national problem."

BIPOLAR "It is as if the experience of being in love could only be one of two things: a superhuman ecstasy, the way of reaching heaven on earth and in pairs; or a psychopathic condition to be treated by specialists." Raoul de Roussy de Sales

CONTRASTS: Blissful/painful. Satisfying/emptying. Selfless/selfish. High highs deep vall

CONFUSION: LOVE UR Doc Martens, Spouse of 50 years. Flat White. Sunset. Fav pr socks

BATTLEGROUND: Love is affirming and supporting a person to be whoever they want.

Love is rooted in God's goals for people not our own. Love is wanting for others what they want for themselves. Love is wanting for others what God wants for them.

WE HAVE MADE A MESS OF LOVE

PM – no grand story answers. no objective truth. tolerance is the greatest virtue and exclusivity (Christian truth claims) is the greatest vice.

- SETUP THAT MAKES LOVE SUBJ: love is love, love wins **REINF 3 CULT MYTHS**

Individualistic (u do u) – romantic (you complete me) - naturalistic (material in motion)

CHRISTIANS: Muddled the waters – Hard for world SEE SUPERNATURAL FLOW LOVE

IMAGO DEI: WE ARE MADE TO LOVE AND BE LOVED – CAP – COV REL/CRXION MAND

- Marred by the Fall – **STRUGGLE DARK made nations, eras bound feel way**
 - o **SOME SPECIAL LOVE CONNECTS TO THE TRANSCENDENT/COSMIC**

Victory Hugo: To love another person is to see the face of God – **Confused Pursuit love**

Every man that rings the bell at a brothel is unconsciously searching for God. Augustine

****WE WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND LOVE UNTIL WE HAVE RIGHT STARTING POINT****

MP: argue There is a divine order to love. We can't know true love until second-order loves are brought into the first-order love.

Second Order: Romantic, familial, friendship, community, stranger, neighbor exper

First Order: God and God's Love: Receiving God's love and loving God.

"If you love anything in this world more than God, you will crush that object under the weight of your expectations." Tim Keller captured

WHAT DOES LOVE HAVE TO DO W/GOD...rules/hell/fable fairy GOD ALL BOUT LUV

Love is the theme that runs through the Scriptures. Like a thread **TIES AND DRIVES ST>**

****WE AREN'T SOURCE OF LOVE GOD IS**

1919 Paris Peace Conf prince faisal/staff joined Lawrence Arabia to London. At the ritz amazed at running water they had access. Wanted remove "magic faucets. Take to Arabian Peninsula – instantaneous hot/cold water by turning handles **THE FAUCETS WEREN'T THE SOURCE**

GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is of God**; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**.

LOVE IS OF GOD BC GOD IS LOVE: HOW - U HAVE TO HAVE - BC TRIUNE -

- Eternally loving – non-contingent (didn't need creation) – **BETTER (wanted)**

The Trinity is a community of love where love is given and received. Uncond give selves1

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Matthew 3:17 This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

When Christians teach that God *is himself love*, they're saying that true love itself has its **origin** and **essence** in God. – **ORIGIN: NO TRINITY, NO LOVE..naturalism no answer**

- ESSENCE: Source true love - expect LOVE IS AND LOVE ISN'T

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **WHOSE TRUTH? GOD'S TRUTH LOVE IS OF GOD – love according 2 God**

GOD'S TRUE LOVE HAS BEEN REVEALED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

1 John 4:9-10

Love is God's unconditional giving of Himself to u through ur faith in Jesus His Son.

GOSPEL: unconditional, sacrificial, self-giving, (HE DIED FOR SINS – DEAL W IT)

- LOVE – undeserved – OFFENDED GOD WITH OUR SIN – HE.....

God doesn't love you so that you can continue to sin. He loves you to forgive free from sin

- Wayward / Prodigal / Brkn – unable love b love God intend - CAUSES US SEE –

- love RENEWS – **I DIDN'T KNOW LOVE TIL CAME TO CHRIST - CHANGED**

Romans 5:5 Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

○ **THIS IS WHAT YOUR HEART NEEDS / LONGING FOR**

David Bennet – Gay Activist – journalist – how – pray – experience – IN THE PUB

If we haven't found a higher love than sexuality why would we give that up? D Bennet

- **OF COURSE CONFUSED – THEY HAVEN' EXPERIENCED GOD'S LOVE**

GOD'S LOVE IS RIGHTLY ORDERED AND ELEVATED

THIS IS WHY JESUS ESTABLISHES THE ORDER – not just an answer THE ANSWER FIRST ORDER - LOVE GOD FIRST (not other way around)

Matthew 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment

LOVING GOD IS FIRST – SUPREME – SET'S EVERYTHING ELSE RIGHT – SOLAR SYSTEM

- Worship – what am I living for – God and God alone – **God sits throne my heart**

- Identity: Who am I – **loved by God, I'm a child of God**

- Wholeness – what's missing – nothing – **belong to God filled my heart**

- Flourishing – What I have to look forward - **Future framed by God's promises**

NOW...OUT OF THE OVERFLOW/STRENGTH - LOVE OTHERS

Matthew 22:39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

- Romantic, familial, friendship, community, stranger, neighbor

WE ARE SURROUNDED WITH PEOPLE TO LOVE – MESS - YOU'RE LOVED BY GOD