

The House that God is Building!

A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH
February 14, 1999

TITLE: The House that God is Building

TEXT: 1 John 4:8-21

THEME: Love

THRUST: Our “Brotherly Love” is the *true* declaration of our love for God.

INTRODUCTION:

Happy Valentine’s Day!

1700 years ago, around 300 AD a priest of the ever growing Christian Church secretly began performing wedding ceremonies for Roman soldiers. Claudius II, who was the emperor then, had ordered the young men not to marry. He thought that if they did not have homes, they would be willing to go away and fight. The priest who secretly performed the marriages was eventually put to death. So, today, sweethearts celebrate in his honor. His name? Valentine.

Valentine’s conviction was probably rooted in **Deut 24:5**

“If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.”

This is one of many commands to Israel
that has *not* been ratified by Christianity.

It would be interesting to know what kind of impact
obedience to this command would have had
on our society and its runaway divorce rate.

What was God saying, thinking when He commanded this?

He was making a statement
about the importance of starting right!
Divorce isn’t the issue, it is merely a result!
The issue is in starting right!

Being Valentine’s Day, it is fitting to focus our thinking on *love*!

In order to *think right* we need to start at the beginning.

1 John 4:7-21

1. The *Foundation* of Love
2. The *Demonstration* of Love
3. The *Revelation* of Love

I. The *Foundation* of Love — God the Father

· The *origin* of love.

v.7 *love comes from God* — its origin

v.8 *God is love* — Love is not just something

He thought up,
but *love* is part of His character!

The *foundation* of *our* love is not within us
but within Him!

The whole teaching of this passage
is built on this truth.

Too often, we try to dredge this kind of love

out of ourselves, when its root is not in us, but in Him.

True, *agape`* is the Greek word that describes

love that is rooted in the will

and not in response to circumstances.

But true *agape`* is only found in God's character not our own.

The reason for that is our characters are corrupted!

Paul stated, "*In me, that is in my flesh,*

dwells no good thing." (Rom 7:18)

· The *order* of love.

v.19 We love Him ***because*** He *first* loved us.

· The *outcome* of His love

v.19 We love *Him* — His love is designed to produce

a response in us and we love Him back.

But let us *never ever* forget that **He** took the initiative!

Not only is He the *foundation* of Love,

but when He took the initiative, He *manifested* His love.

II. The *Demonstration* of Love — God the Son

· "To make a valentine God took two shafts of wood
And on that wood in love and anguish placed his Son,
Who gave his heart that mine might
Be made new."

· What makes this so remarkable

is that God the Father and God the Son

did this for me in my most *unlovable* condition!

Paul stated:

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It has been said that God loves us just the way we are
and loves us too much to leave us there!

Now, we have talked about

The *Foundation* of Love in God the Father, and

The *Demonstration* of Love in God the Son ...

but what role does the Holy Spirit play in Love?

III. The *Revelation* of Love — God the Holy Spirit

v.12 tells us that no one has seen God

but that God dwells in us ... How? By His Spirit.

v.13 says, "We know¹ that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." ¹ to know absolutely!

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit in our walk

is to impart to us that deep security that we are in God

and that God is in us!

Another ministry of the Holy Spirit

is to reproduce the Character of God *through* us.

“The *fruit* of the Spirit is **Love**.” — Gal 5:22.

Therefore, we have the character of the Godhead
involved in Love!

The *Foundation*

The *Demonstration*

The *Revelation* of Love.

Where should that leave us?

Astounded! Ready to be *true* declarations of Love.

IV. Our Declaration of Love:

- Is *through* the sacrifice of Praise *to* the Father — Heb 13:15
- Is *with* obedience to the Precepts *of* the Son — Jn 14:15
- Is *in* yielding to the Pathway *of* the Holy Spirit — Gal 5:16
- Is *to* our brother — **1 Jn 4:7, 11, 12, 20 & 21** — 5 times!

v.12 told us that *no one has seen God*....

The purpose of that statement is to drive home

the truth that in many cases

the *only* declaration of love

that someone may have is through **you**!

Jesus told the disciples,

“By *this* shall all men **know** that you are my disciples if you have love one to another.”

know again = to know *absolutely*!

So the concluding question for our consideration is:

not What do people see when they observe you?

but *Who do people see when they observe you?*

We realize as never before that life's greatest joy

is to give His love away — a thought

that brings to mind the saying:

It isn't a song until it's sung.

It isn't a bell until it's rung.

It isn't love until it's given away!

CONCLUSION: Hymn #346 *The Bond of Love*