

Overflowing Generosity: Receiving and Extending the Grace of God

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 07/3/2022

1 John 4:7-12 – “The Triune God, the Fountain of Love Who Fills Us to Overflow” – by Drew Hunter

Overview

In our summer series “**Overflowing Generosity**” we will see how God generously welcomes us, serves us, gives to us, comforts us, and brings the gospel to us. In God’s self-giving nature, it is natural for him to spread his goodness and grace. In response to God’s outpouring of love, we receive his generosity and extend it to others. Why are we to live lives of generous love? This text answers this important question for God’s people by showing that we love others because:

1. The Fountain: God is Love (4:7-8)
2. The Filling: God loved us | Christ (4:9-11)
3. The Overflow: God loves through us (4:12)

Discussion Questions

- 1) Our culture loves love but what is love? How does society define love? What does the Bible say about love? (Mk. 12:29-31, Jn. 3:16-17, 14:21, 15:12-13, Rom. 5:8, 1 Cor. 13:4-7, 1 Jn. 3:16-18, 4:7-12, 5:1-3)
- 2) **1 Jn. 4:7-8** – God is the origin and source of all love, and God is love. God has always enjoyed an eternal fellowship of love in the Trinity: God the Father loving the Son in the Spirit. And the Son loving the Father in the Spirit. Where does love come from? Why does love matter?
- 3) **1 Jn. 4:9-11** – God is a fountain of generous love, and he fills us with his love through Jesus. Jesus is God’s love incarnate. The cross shows God’s just wrath against sinners but it also shows God’s love for sinners. God’s love triumphs for his people. How can you tell if God loves you? How do we experience his love? When was the last time you thanked God for his continual outpouring of love?
- 4) **1 Jn. 4:12** – God fills us so we would overflow with love for others. God can be seen in Jesus, in how Jesus loved others. The world can see God in our love because it is God’s love in and through us. We can be generous because the generous God has filled us to overflow. Why should we love others? Why is loving God and others evidence of saving faith in a person’s life? What are some practical ways that you love God and others?
- 5) **How to respond:** **1) Receive God’s love** → If you have never received God’s saving grace, then his fountain of love is available to you. Receive the grace of Jesus being sent for you and dying as the propitiation for your sins. You receive that Jesus came for you, and he died for your sins. You receive his forgiveness, his presence, and his eternal life. If you are already a Christian, keep receiving God’s love moment by moment. See the greatest gift as coming to know the triune God of love. **2) Extend God’s love** → As God’s love is poured over you, extend his love toward others. Start with those closest to you (family, friends), then church, then vocational work, then pressing social needs, and then to missions.

Quotations

"[God is] a full fountain ... God’s love is like a river or a spring that runs under-ground, and has done so from eternity. Where does it spring up first? Where does this fountain begin to bubble up or issue forth? When a person is first called, then that love that has run from everlasting under-ground, and through the heart of Christ upon the cross, breaks out in a person’s own heart too." – Thomas Goodwin