Preaching and Practicing the Truth
Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, 1, 2 and 3 John

God is Love
1 John 4:7-21
Lesson 18

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 4, 2014
The Word of Life

- Eternal life in Jesus Christ
- The centrality of Christ’s Person and Work
- The evidence of salvation in a believer
Tests of Genuine Fellowship

The Fundamental Tests – SPIRAL 2 (2:18-3:24)
The Fundamental Tests – SPIRAL 3 (4:1-21)

- Doctrinal test
- Practical test
Three Attributes of God

- God is Light (1:5-2:28)
- God is Righteous (2:29-4:6)
- God is Love (4:7-5:21)
Themes

- Dueling worlds
- Fellowship with God
Lesson 18: God is Love

- 2:5-17 – love of God perfected in obedience
- 3:10-24 Love displays paternity – of God or the devil
- 4:7-21 – perfect love in imperfect man
  - God is love (4:7-10)
  - God’s love in us (4:11-21)
God is Love (4:7-10)

- An attribute of God
  - Directs His acts
  - Unity of attributes
  - Not discoverable apart from revelation

- Expressed within the Godhead
  - John 8:42; 15:9; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:13

- Drives God’s plan for His creation
  - John 3:16; 1 John 4:14
  - Romans 8:35-39
  - Romans 8:29; 11:36; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:3
  - 1 Corinthians 15:24
  - Revelation 11:15
Exclusive Source of Love (4:7-8)

- No competing divinity – only One God
- 4:7 – everyone who loves is born of God
- What about love in the world?
- Common grace – “token” grace
Revealed in the Cross

▷ 3:16 – we know love by this

▷ 4:9 – By this . . . God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him

▷ 4:10 – He sent His Son to propitiate our sins

▷ The visible love of God
God’s Love in Us (4:11-12)

- If God so loved us – we ought to love one another
- No one has seen God at anytime
- His love is perfected in us
The role of the Holy Spirit: We know . . .
- 1 John 3:24
- 1 John 4:13

The witness of the Holy Spirit
- 3:23 – faith in His Son Jesus Christ and love for one another
- 4:14-15 – Father sent the Son to be Savior of the world; Jesus is the Son of God

4:2 – test the spirits: Jesus Christ has come in the flesh

The Spirit perfects the love of God within us (4:17)

No fear in love (4:17-18)
We love, because he first loved us (4:19-21)

- Love is of God
- Profession v. practice
Proof of Faith

- God is Light
- God is righteous
- God is love
- Those born of God
  - Faith in Jesus, the Son of God and Savior
  - Love of God in us validates our faith