

Pastor Will Sohnchen
Sermon Outline – August 12, 2007
“Where Love Shines the Brightest”

1 John 4:7-12...

“7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

Agape is...

Agape is an unselfish love that gives regardless of worthiness or return. It's a self-forgetful kind of love that gives without thought to what one will get out of it. It's a kind of love that transcends romance, friendship, patriotism, and even family. It's the kind of love that can regulate all other loves from turning destructive.

In Mark Buchanan's words..

“Agape chooses to love, not just before there is emotion, but sometimes in spite of other emotions that otherwise come naturally. It loves in the face of betrayal, in the face of rejection, in the face of evasion, in the face of rank badness. It wills love even when circumstances trigger instincts of anger or hurt, withdrawal or revenge. Agape builds its house, often, in the ruins.”

Love shines the brightest where we...

1. Love the _____ of these”.

'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'... “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:40&35&36

2. Love the _____ of these.”

“The most of these” is... that person who does what you do, only better. Maybe much better. It's the person you, as well as everyone else, are most likely to notice, and resent. Your rival. The one who threatens to eclipse you.

3. Love the _____ of these.”

“You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matt. 5:43—48)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.”

I John 4:18