



Sunday Sermon Notes: December 2, 2018

ADVENT – LOVE – 1 John 3:16-18

LOVE – the anchor point of every Christmas. It was what motivated Christ to come on our behalf. It was what compelled God to send Him to redeem us. It's what the Holy Spirit uses to empower us. It's what motivates us now to go to others.

LOVE CREATES Genesis 1:26-27

In the beginning, God created humanity out of His innate love. Not self-love, but out of an abundance of love that longed for companionship. His love compelled him to not only create humanity, but to create humanity in His own image, putting his own stamp on each and every life.

LOVE SEEKS Romans 5:6-8

It was the Love of Christ that sent him seeking us. Whereas all other philosophies and religions are humanity seeking God, Christianity is the only one where God is seeking humanity! We had nothing to barter with, nothing worthy of sacrificing in exchanging and no deeds qualified to reach the heights necessary to call His love down. That's why he came looking for us. He sought us out!

LOVE SACRIFICES John 3:16

The fullest demonstration of love was Christ's sacrifice on the cross. There was no compelling reading for Christ to make such a sacrifice. It was based uniquely on Christ's desire for us.

LOVE MOTIVATES John 3:16b-17

When I see the sacrifice paid for me, I'm motivated toward a response. First to Christ, but then to those around me. I cannot STAND to remain stationary when such a high price was paid for me! My very soul demands that I respond!

LOVE ACTS John 3:18

Once we've been awakened to our new reality, living in the freedom and power of God's great love for us, our actions reflect the change in my heart, my mind and my direction!

Colossians 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

