

SERMON NOTES Sunday 28 April

sunnysidechurch

Bible passage 1 John 4.7-end

Introduction

- 'Love is as love does. Love is an act of will -- namely, both an intention and an action. Will also implies choice. We do not have to love. We choose to love.' M Scott Beck
- God is love (not the same as love is God)
- Love embodied in Jesus and demonstrated by him

Agape (loving kindness)

1. Service: love is action
 - Practical action e.g. Jesus washing his disciples' feet
 - Enabled by God's love for us and the Holy Spirit in us
2. Sacrifice: love is costly
 - Cost Jesus everything
 - Loving our brothers and sisters in Christ not optional
3. Sharing: love is witnessing
 - Love for one another will witness to others of the love of God and his kingdom
 - Acts of loving kindness as powerful witness

Conclusion

- Holy Spirit in us enables us to experience God's love and show it to others
- Called to grow in love ('abound more and more' Philippians 1.9-11)

Some questions for discussion

1. How would you complete the sentence 'love is...'?
2. Read 1 John 4.7-end. What strikes you about this passage?
3. What examples can you think of from the Bible or your own life where you have experienced/seen God's Agape love?
4. 'love is as love does'. How does it help us to know that love is an action rather than a feeling?
5. In what ways might it be true to say that love is costly?
6. How might we witness to others by showing God's love to them as individuals and as a church?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. (Phil 1.9-11)

Why not spend some time praying Paul's prayer and asking that your love (and our love) for God might abound more and more to God's glory and praise?

Revd Rebecca Fardell