

UNSTOPPABLE LOVE

The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

We love all people.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018/OCTOBER 3, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: **1 John 4:7-21**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What is love? The singer Haddaway famously asked the question in his song ("What is love?" 1993) that became the sound track for the movie "A Night at the Roxbury". But neither the song nor the movie answer the question. We associate love with so many things—family, romance, attraction, passion, etc. But God points us to another kind of love—an unstoppable love. What is unstoppable love? It finds its source in God's love for us. It's unstoppable because it doesn't let appearance or rejection or pain or risk or anything else turn it away. It is not a "because love" but a "no matter what love". How can we have this kind of love in our lives?

[Watch the Video](#)

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

The book of 1 John was written by John the Apostle toward the end of the first century (he also wrote the Gospel of John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation). He was the only one of the original 12 Disciples who was not martyred by died of old age. Much of his ministry took place in the city of Ephesus (in modern Turkey) and it is believed he was buried there. This letter was probably written to the church at Ephesus since John is so familiar with the readers and speaks with such authority. There are two main themes in 1 John: warning against false teachers and encouragement to love others. In fact, John sets up love and obedience as the primary ways that the readers will know who the false teacher are: if they do not obey Christ and do not love others, they are not of the true faith. John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" so clearly love was a big deal to him. It defined his identity and his relationship with God.

DISCUSS THE VIDEO

- What do you think of the story of Myles Eckert and his \$20? What can we learn from Myles? Have you ever experienced an act of love that led you to “pay it forward”?

> Read 1 John 4:7-12

- Do you need to be reminded that God loves you? What makes us lose sight of God’s love for us? How can we remind ourselves of what God has done for us to demonstrate His love?
- What does it mean that God’s love is made complete in us?

> Read 1 John 4:13-17

- Part of the purpose of 1 John is to help us know that we are followers of Christ--to have confidence in our salvation. How do these verses tell us we can know that we live in God and He lives in us?

> Read 1 John 18-21

- How does fear keep us from loving others?
- How can “perfect love” drive out fear?

Take 20 . . .

Choose one or more of these Take 20 Challenges to complete this week:

- Take 20 minutes to have a conversation with someone who is different from you. Focus on listening and not trying to think of what to say next. Look for tangible ways you can express love to them.
- Take 20 dollars like Myles Eckert and give it away to someone. Write a short note telling them why you did this.
- Take 20 minutes each day to read the book of 1 John. Look for the recurring theme of love in action. As you read, ask God to help you see opportunities to love all people.

UPCOMING LESSONS

Focus more on the idea of God’s Unstoppable Love by reading in your Personal Devotional Guide.

- 10/7 Unstoppable Families—We partner with families.
- 10/14 Unstoppable Community—We practice community.
- 10/21 Unstoppable Generosity—We give generously.
- 10/28 Unstoppable Mission—We live beyond ourselves.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

1st – Zechariah 10-12; Psalm 126; Luke 14 | **2nd** – Zechariah 13-14; Psalm 147; Luke 15 | **3rd** – Ezra 5-6; Psalm 138; Luke 16 | **4th** – Esther 1-2; Psalm 150; Luke 17 | **5th** – Esther 3-8; Luke 18 | **6th** – Esther 9-10; Luke 19 | **7th** – Ezra 7- 8; Luke 20