

Seek (Week 5): Directed to God's Love

Yesterday's Sermon - In 10 Sentences or Less

1. The final chapter of our Lenten book, "Seeking God," focuses on seeing God's love in everything, so we spent the day focused on that most basic Christian theological assumption - God's nature being love, or not being able to stop God from loving us.
2. The New Testament uses the synonymous phrases "God's love" and "the love of God" just over two dozen times, and we spent the entire sermon considering just one of those - 1st Thes. 3.5 - which then allowed us to springboard into some of the other passages.
3. Whatever else is true in our lives right now, God is trying to direct His love to us: that word "direct" means to guide someone into the straightest, most effective route to a destination.
4. If God is always loving, why does He need to "direct" His love to us, or us to it?... It's about us, not Him, we are the ones who don't ask for it (Frederick Buechner), or don't trust God's love (Martin Luther), or stray from, forgot about, or try to replace it.
5. The good news is - over and over in these 24+ passages, we see that God's love seeks us and acts on our behalf when we least deserve it (i.e., Eph. 2.4-5).
6. When the New Testament describes God's love, one of its repeated image for it is that of a good parent for a child (1 John 3.1), so we can safely assume that at any juncture in life God is treating us like the best parent would.
7. A second common description of God's love is it's what we see revealed in the person of Jesus (1 John 4.9), so, again, at any juncture in life we can anticipate that God is always acting toward and speaking to us as Jesus Himself would.
8. And God is trying to direct His love to "our hearts" - in the Greco-Roman world, this is not merely the seat of our emotions, but signifies our deepest, truest, innermost selves.
9. Thus, in order to know and experience God's constant love, we must pay attention to our hearts, which is problematic because so often we live detached from, avoiding, or ignoring that which is going on deep inside us.
10. Drawing from two Christian luminaries from church history, we will often sense God's love in our hearts when we feel empty, because there's room for God's love to fill us (C. H. Spurgeon), when we rise above our preoccupation with ourselves and are focused on caring or serving others (C. H. Spurgeon), and when we are our most fallible or experience a personal failure (Thomas Merton).



More on God's Love for the Week

1. Bible reading this week - over half of the two dozen or so New Testament uses of the phrases "God's love" and "the love of God" are in one small letter: 1st John. It's only five chapters long, give it a read this week, and pay attention to all that it has to say about God's love:

[1 John 1 NRSVA](#)

2. Turn the verse we savored yesterday into a daily prayer this week: "Lord, direct my heart to Your love, amen."

3. The word almost exclusively used for God's "love" in the New Testament is "agape," which is also the most common word used for how we as Christians are supposed to love. This short video dives into this most important Greek word, "agape":

[Agape - Love](#)

4. A great read about God's love from a prof in the theology dept. at Boston College:

[How have you experienced God's love? | America Magazine](#)

5. An uplifting worship song about our God, who is love:

[Chris Renzema - "God Is Love" \(The Smoakstack Sessions\)](#)

6. Have you enjoyed Trevor Hudson, author of "Seeking God"? Here are links to archives of his books, articles, and podcasts:

[Renovaré | Spiritual Formation Books By Trevor Hudson](#)

[Renovaré | Spiritual Formation Articles By Trevor Hudson](#)

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