

Choosing to Love

Part three of the series, "Onward: Essentials for Moving Forward"

Saturday, June 20 & Sunday, June 21, 2020

Pastor Norman Nakanishi

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.** ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:7-10 ESV)

God is LOVE.

"...God is love." (1 John 4:8 ESV)

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27 ESV)

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'" (Matthew 22:36-40 ESV)

Loving our NEIGHBOR as ourselves fulfills God's entire law.

"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14 ESV)

God's Word gives us the attributes of love:

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ESV)

When we KNOW God, we can love like God because love comes from God.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7 ESV)

The power of love is expressed through the power of CHOICE.

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Colossians 3:12-14 ESV)