

A FURIOUS LOVE

1 JOHN 4:7-12 - ERIC SIMPSON - MARCH 26, 2017

"The two most difficult things to get straight in life are love and God. More often than not, the mess people make of their lives can be traced to failure or stupidity or meanness in one or both of these areas. The basic and biblical Christian conviction is that the two subjects are intricately related. If we want to deal with God the right way, we have to learn to love the right way. If we want to love the right way, we have to deal with God the right way. God and love can't be separated."

– Eugene Peterson

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ 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.

God is love. (v. 8)

God set His love on us. (v. 9)

From the fountain of that love, we love one another. (v. 11)

What happens if you settle down into the furious love of God?

➤ It will loosen the grip of fear.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...

➤ It will change the way you relate to people.

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- Helps you step off the people-pleasing-treadmill
- Takes the pressure off human relationships to be for you what only God can be
- Strengthens your patience with difficult/draining people

"The practice of the presence of people is not some spectator sport that can be done from the sidelines. We're not talking about people-watching, but about love. Love requires getting mixed up with people. We're going to spend a lot of our lives mixed up anyway. Why not do it together?" – Mike Mason

➤ It makes the invisible, visible.