

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer
December 13, 2015 - First Family Christmas.
Message: Love and Expectations 1John 4:7-11

- The Perfect Gift – Precious, Personal, Practical...

What is your perfect gift?

The Love of Jesus Christ changes us, covers our sin and conquers our fears and selfishness. Love is a decision to take action to bless God and others. Three Sides of Love: Commitment, Intimacy and Passion.

Love is from God. (v. 7-8)

- Don't settle for cheap substitutes.

The Five Love Languages – Dr. Gary Chapman

Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Gift Giving, Quality Time, Physical Touch

Love is sent from God to us. (v. 9-10)

- Jesus our Saviour and Lord.
- *He loved us first. He was the first person to touch you.*
- *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sin.*
- Gift to Receive. John 15:9-12

Love from God Impacts Others. (v. 11-12)

- Re-gift the love of God.

Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot – Relationship Styles.

- The Pleaser – “Pleasers are very eager to meet your needs, sometimes needs you don't even have. They love with their hearts, but not with their heads. They jump to conclusions.

- The Controller – “Controllers are the mirror images of Pleasers. These people love with their heads but not with their hearts. Controllers are very good at getting their own needs met.”
- The Withholder – “Withholders are different from Pleasers and Controllers. It takes a lot of patience to be in a relationship with a withholder. These are people who've been hurt in a relationship before, and they don't want to be hurt again.
- The Genuine Lover – “The Genuine Lover is the only person you're going to find who knows how to love with their head as well as their heart. They run low on guilt and high on love. This is the person who has the heart of love, which described in one word is empathy.
<http://www.uu.edu/Unionite/summer00/loveandmarriage.htm>

Jesus gives us a heart of love. 1John 4:13-21

Life Group Questions

1. How did the love of Christ change your life? Share 1-3 ways God has poured out his love into your life?
2. The Christian life must be lived through Christ in the power of the Spirit. How does this relate to John 14:15-17 & 15:1-16?
3. Christ is our atoning sacrifice. What does atoning sacrifice mean? How does this show God's grace and love so that we cannot earn our salvation because he first loved us? How does this show us that we are God's treasured possession?
Deut 14:2; Malachi 3:17
4. How can the five love languages impact how you practically love others around you?
5. What kind of relationship style do you struggle within your life? What is the difference between being a genuine lover and the other relationship styles?
6. How does the love of Christ overcome your fears and selfishness? 1John 4:18; Col 3:12-17
7. Over Christmas decide to make one change in loving others. Write it down and start doing it!