

"Love, Love, Love, Love, Love"

Pastor Kent Groethe

Background:

The apostle John wrote 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John. He also wrote the Gospel of John. Some scholars also think he wrote Revelation. He was a fisherman by trade and a fisherman for Christ. He may be the only apostle who was not killed for his faith. He lived a long life – maybe even into the 90s AD.

John's favorite Beatles song: "All we need is love."

John's motto: "Love, Love, Love, Love, Love."

The key theme in John's letters is love; God's and ours:

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are." 1 John 3:1

"God SO loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son" ...John 3:16

Love is a Pay It Forward Thing:

"We should love one another." 1 John 3:11

"This is how we know what love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

Love Breeds Concern for the Needy.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need, but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love in words or speech, but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

Our Love (and affections) Have Strong Competition.

"Do not love the world or anything in the world." 1 John 2:15

"Anyone who hates...is in the darkness." 1 John 2"8-11

Love Breeds Obedience:

"I ask that we love one another. And this is love; that we walk in obedience to his commands...His command is that you walk in love." 2 John 4:5-6

Love breeds obedience. Obedience does not breed [God's] love."

"This is love for God; to keep his commands." 1 John 5:3-4

Encountering God's Love Allows Us to Love God and Others.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19