

**God Isn't Just Loving, God Is Love**  
Hope Chapel Honolulu  
1John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In 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. <sup>10</sup> In 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.  
(1John 4:7-12, ESV)

### **Introduction**

While we have probably all heard and read that “God is love,” we probably take that to mean that “God is loving” rather than to understand that first of all this is a statement about God’s nature: *God is a relationship* (Dt6:4-9, Mt28:19). We will see over the next few weeks that not only is God love, but that the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has provided for and given us a share in His ministry of reconciliation. The implications of having been made in the image and likeness of the Triune God who not only loves but is Love (Ge1:26-31, 2:18-25) means that we were created to both resemble (*being*) and represent (*doing*) God. Faith in Christ brings us into God’s process of transformation (1Co13:1-13, Ep4:11-16) and restoration to the image of Christ (2Co4:4, Co1:15).

#### **1. God’s amazing ability and willingness to forgive. (1Kings 21:17-29)**

- a) I am amazed at how God forgave King Ahab and how He loves, accepts and forgives me.
- b) Because God is love, not only are creation and life made possible, but also repentance, reconciliation and restoration leading to rest.

#### **2. The revelation of God’s love for us before and after the Fall. (1Jn4:7-8)**

- a) Mankind started from “rest” or a “unity of loving, being and doing.” (Ge1:24-2:3)
- b) Because of the Fall, we must learn to return to rest and unity when stress taxes us (Ge3:15-19, Mt11:29)

#### **3. God’s original design of loving, being and doing restored through Christ. (1Jn4:9-12)**

- a) We began with rest in God-- “a unity of loving, being and doing.”
- b) God’s three-step dance: 1) rest, 2) unity=loving and being, 3) work=loving and doing.

### **Conclusion**

In Luke 6:37-38 Jesus said, “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (ESV). More than judging others, even more than knowing God, we are called to love and imitate God, and so faith in Christ should lead to **loving, being and doing**.

### **For our prayerful study, discovery and application:**

1. How is knowing, being and doing different from loving, being and doing?
2. Why are loving relationships so important to God?
3. What did the Holy Spirit remind you of or teach you anew this week?

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