

PIECES ONE : 'Birthmark'

13th Jan 2019

Key scriptures:

1 John 4:7-21

2 Corinthians 5:17

'LEARNING TO BE LOVED MORE FULLY AND TO MORE FULLY LOVE'

1 John 4:17-21

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.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. **20** Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. **21** And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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Questions:

1. As you read this passage again and think back to Sunday (if you were there), what things have stuck with you and/or striking you today?
2. On Sunday we talked about the external and internal conditions we put on love. Can you relate to this and what kind of conditions do you put on love?
3. Can you remember how agape love is different? What do you think/feel about this kind of love?
4. Do you think you ever withhold love to be more in control or more powerful in a relationship?
5. Flick over to 2 Corinthians 2:17 and have a read of it. Do you believe in your 'new creation' status? How could you strengthen this part of your faith?
6. How does this mark and call to agape challenge the way in which you love? Is there anything you could do practically to help?