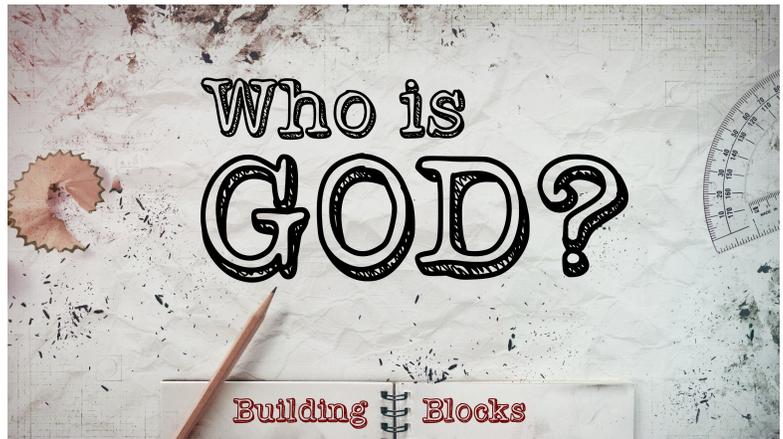


4 • God is Love

“Who is God?” That’s the really big question we’ve been exploring together this month. We’ve learned that God is our Creator. He is the great “I AM” who has always been, is everywhere, knows everything, and can do anything. God is holy, 100% pure. Our last lesson comes straight from **1 John 4:8**. Who is God? “God is _____.” Let’s listen carefully to **1 John 4:7-11**:



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is _____ God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only _____ into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved _____ and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

God loves us. He loved us first, and clearly he wants his love for us to shape the way we treat each other. Remember **1 Peter 1:15-16** from last week:

...as he who called you is holy, you also be _____ in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Think about what we’ve learned this month and what it’s all pointing to...

- ★ God created.
- ★ God is “I AM.”
- ★ God is holy.
- ★ God is love.

What’s it all pointing to?

God wants a _____ with you.

How serious is he about wanting this relationship?

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... God shows his _____ for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ _____ for us. (**Rom 5:6, 8**)

Why? Because God is love, even when it costs him. Remember what Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane? “Not my will, but yours, be done” (**Luke 22:42**).

So how can we grow to be like our Father in heaven? Let’s end with **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**:

Love is patient and _____; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or _____. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never _____.

Who is God? Creator. The great “I AM.” God is holy, and God is love. **Let’s talk about it...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's look back and really think about the difference these big answers to the "**Who is God?**" question make...
 - Why does it matter whether or not I realize that God is my Creator?

 - What difference does it make whether or not I realize God has always been, he's everywhere, knows everything, and can do anything?

 - Why is it really important for us to realize that God is holy—100% pure?

- And what difference does this fourth answer make—**God is love**? Why does that matter? Why is it really, really good news?

- Why does God care whether or not we love one another (1 John 4:7)?

- Let's go back and reread 1 John 4:8 together. Why do you think John would say that sort of thing?

- According to 1 John 4:9-10, what is the clearest sign we will ever have that God really loves us?

- And in 1 John 4:11, what difference should that make in our lives?

- Let's spend the rest of our time together in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. What is love? What's it look like? How does it act? What areas of loving like God do you need to work on?