



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Sermon Series

24 DECEMBER 2023

LOVE OF CHRISTMAS

1 JOHN 4:7-17

by Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming





Christmas Service
Sunday 24th Dec 2023
rev dr ng swee ming



What Does Christmas Mean To You ?

圣诞节对你来说意味着什么？





‘Interviewed’ 82 ... 10 minutes ++ ... 4 mins+ ...
接受采访 82 ... 10分钟 ++ ... 4分钟 + ...





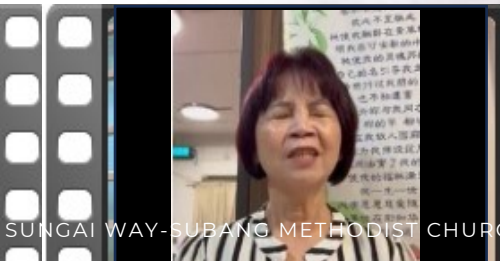
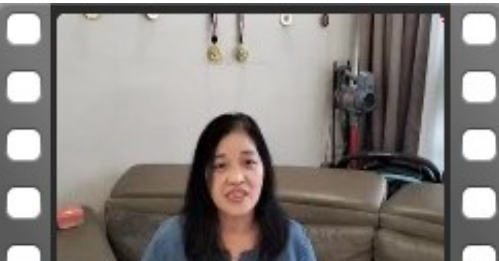
Church Website / 教会网站 :
ssmc.com.my





What Does Christmas Mean To You ?

圣诞节对你来说意味着什么？



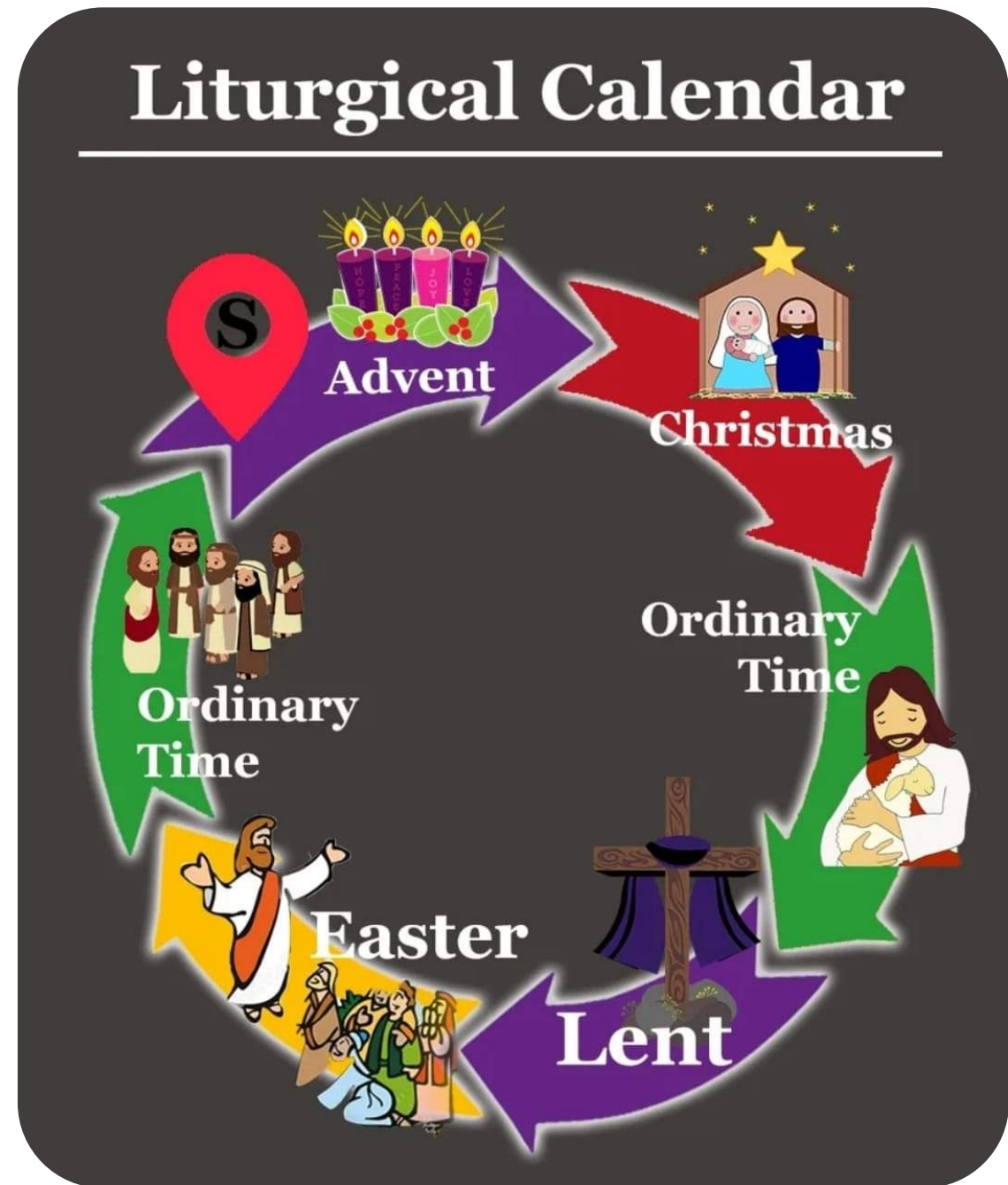
End of the ADVENT Season

Advent :

(Latin *adventus*, “coming”)

Meaning :

- 1. the arrival of a notable person, thing or event**
- 2. the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.**



ADVENT

HOPE
Ps Robin

JOY
Bro Henry



PEACE
*Brandon &
Ps Kok Moi*

LOVE

Scripture Ref : 1 John 4:7-17 NIV

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 We know that we live in Him and He in us, because 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 Him and He 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 him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him.

John the Apostle of LOVE ...

Books of 1, 2 & 3 John: 42

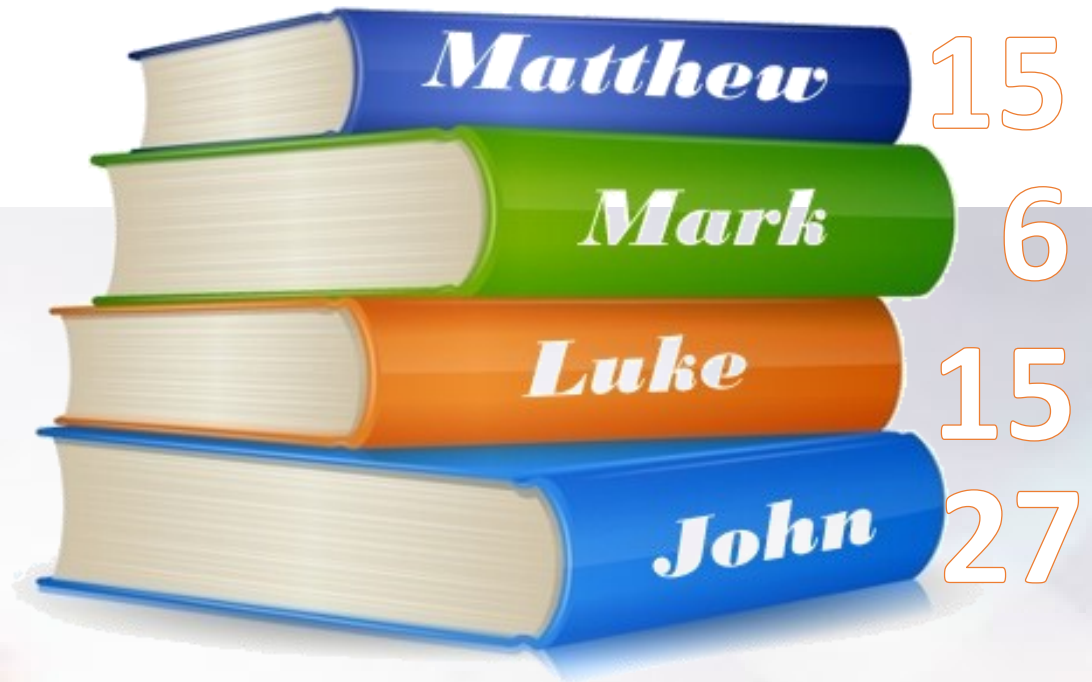
Book of 1 John : 35

1 John Chp 4: 21

In comparison,

Paul's great chapter on "Love" 1 Cor 13 :

↳ only 9 times



Christmas is truly ...

*a **LOVE STORY***



1 John 4:7-8

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.**

约翰一书 4:7-8

7亲爱的弟兄啊，我们应当彼此相爱，因为爱是从神来的。凡有爱心的，都是由神而生，并且认识神。8没有爱心的，就不认识神，因为神就是爱。

1 John 4:7-8

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.**

GOD is LOVE

↪ Repeated in v16

4 C's

1. God's **CHARACTER** is LOVE

上帝的属性是爱

• God and Love cannot be separated

• God's very nature / essence -

↪ is Love ...

↪ Love His Creation ...

↪ Love His Created Beings ...

↪ Esp those Created in His image

1 John 4:7-8

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.

1. God's CHARACTER is LOVE
上帝的属性是爱

Fact 1#

God IS Love

× Not God WAS Love

× Or God WILL BE Love ...

✓ From time immemorable

↪ Since Creation

✓ And for All Eternity

God IS Love

1 John 4:7-8

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.**

1. God's **CHARACTER** is **LOVE** **上帝的属性是爱**

Fact 2 #

NEVER EVER DOUBT GOD'S LOVE for you ...

Not only in good-times

But more so in bad-times ...

➤ **in sickness ...**

➤ **in crisis – financial, relationships ...**

➤ **in tragedies ...**

➤ **Rom 5:8 'while we were yet sinners...'**

➤ **2 Cor 5:21 '...to be sin for us...'**

➤ **Matt 28:20 'I am with you always...'**

1 John 4:7-8

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.***

1. God's **CHARACTER is LOVE** 上帝的属性是爱

Fact 3 # **GOD = LOVE**
LOVE ≠ GOD

The whole world :

- is looking for 'love' ...
 - wants 'love' at any cost ...
- BUT** instead of 'God is Love'
- to the world – Love is 'god'

Without being anchored in God ...

**Love then becomes empty...
meaningless...
temporary ...**

Eg: Compass



1 John 4:7-8

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.**

1. God's CHARACTER is LOVE 上帝的属性是爱

Fact 1 #

GOD IS LOVE ...

Has Always Been

Will Always Be ...

All that GOD does expresses all that GOD is....

Fact 2 #

NEVER EVER DOUBT GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU

2 Cor 1:20 "all God's Promises are Yes in Christ Jesus" (paraphrase)

Fact 3 #

God Is Love

BUT Love is not god

GOD = LOVE

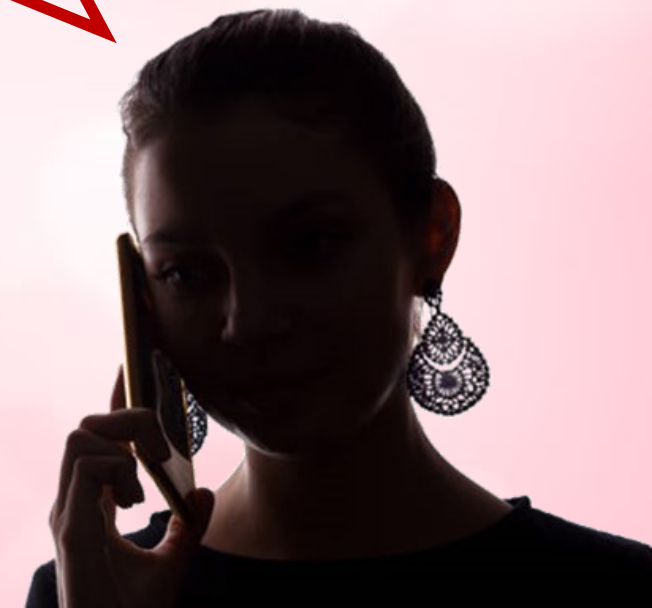
LOVE ≠ GOD

LOVE of CHRISTMAS

TALK
IS
CHEAP

***For you I would climb
The highest mountain
Swim the deepest ocean
For you I would cross
The rivers most wide
Walk the hottest desert sand
To be by your side.***

***Awesome,
I miss you too...
Can you come over right
now !
I can't wait to see you ...***



WHAT !!!!

***It's raining cats &
dogs right now
Do you want me to
get sick ?***



LOVE of CHRISTMAS



LOVE of CHRISTMAS

TALK
IS
CHEAP

ACTION
speaks louder
than **WORDS!**

LOVE of CHRISTMAS

James 2:26 – ‘*Faith without Works is dead*’

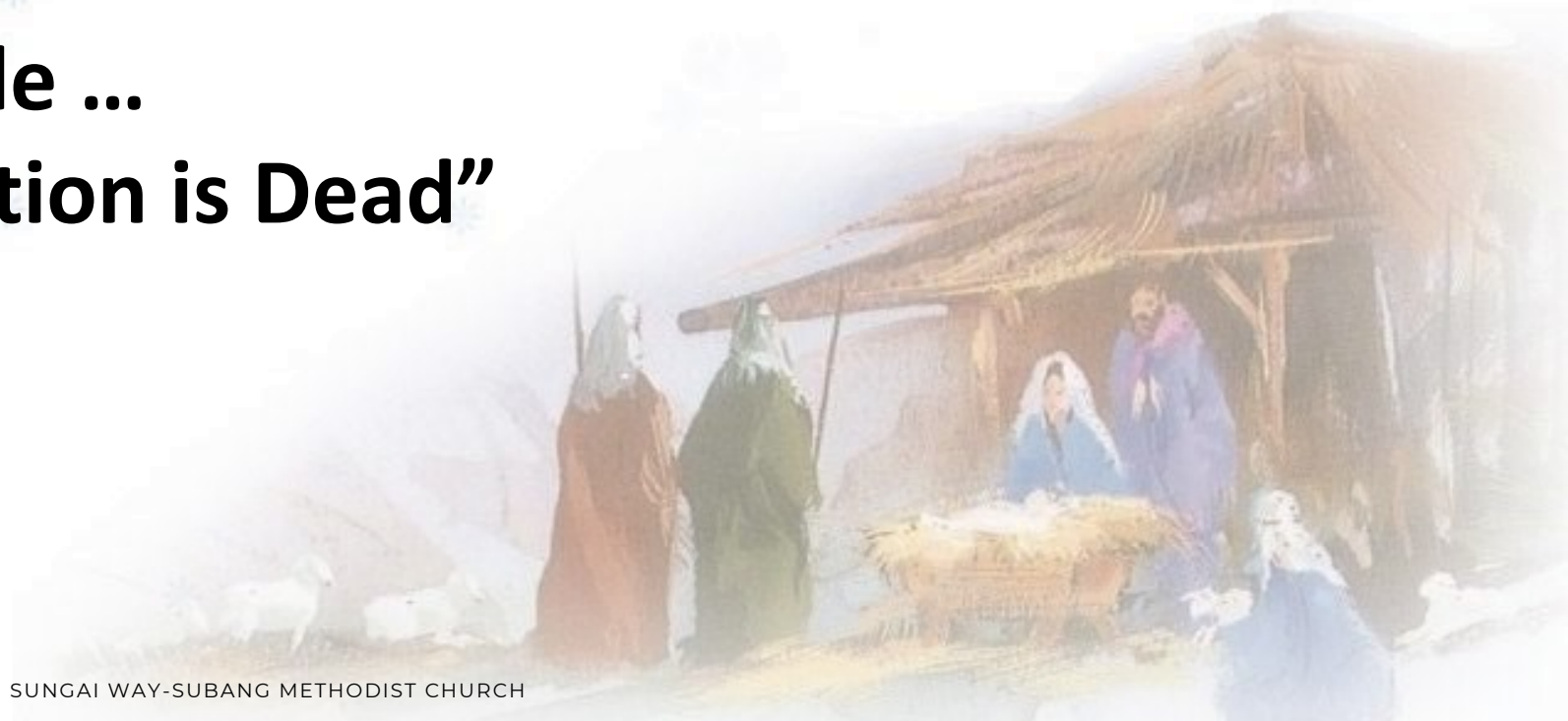
Similarly

Love must be seen ...

↳ **must be visible ...**

↳ **must be tangible ...**

“Love without Action is Dead”



1 John 4:9-10

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.

约翰一书 4:9-10

9 神差他独生子到世间来，使我们藉着他得生，神爱我们的心在此就显明了。

10 不是我们爱神，乃是神爱我们，差他的儿子为我们的罪作了挽回祭，这就是爱了。

1 John 4:9-10

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.

1. God's **CHARACTER is LOVE** 上帝的属性是爱
& putting His Love into action ...

2. God's **COMMITMENT to LOVE**
上帝的承诺是去爱

God sent His Son ...

God sent His Only Son ...

God sent His Only Son to earth ...

↳ Born as a helpless baby ...

↳ Born in a manger ...

↳ Born among animals ...

↳ Greeted by 'unclean'
shepherds ...

1 John 4:9-10

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.

2. God's **COMMITMENT** to LOVE **上帝的承诺是去爱**

Jesus was God's GIFT to the World ...

Evaluating any GIFT:

- **COST ...**
- a. **What is given :**
 - **VALUE ...**
 - **PRECIOUS**

God gave His Most Valuable Possession ...

↪ **His Only Son ...**

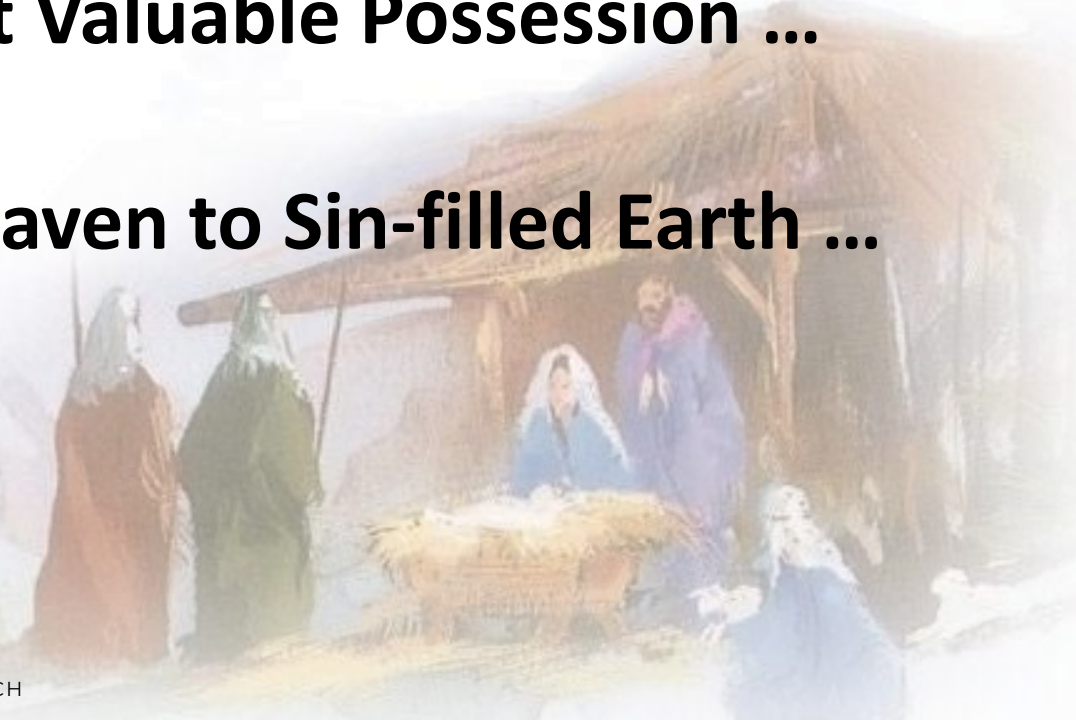
↪ **From Sinless Heaven to Sin-filled Earth ...**

b. It's Usefulness :

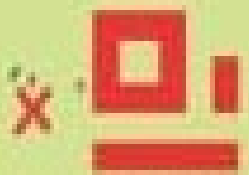
EFFECT ...

IMPACT ...

NUMBERS ...



What are you carrying?



@arkitekyuklid INDIGITOUS®

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

@arkitekyuklid

Many gifts for everyone.
How about you?



Just one gift but it's
enough for everyone



1 John 4:11-12, 7

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.

7 Dear friends, let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

约翰一书 4:11-12, 7

11亲爱的弟兄啊，神既是这样爱我们，我们也当彼此相爱。 12从来没有人见过神，我们若彼此相爱，神就住在我们里面，爱他的心在我们里面得以完全了。

7亲爱的弟兄啊，我们应当彼此相爱，因为爱是从神来的。凡有爱心的，都是由神而生，并且认识神。

1 John 4:11-12, 7

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.

7 Dear friends, let us **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1. God's **CHARACTER** is **LOVE**
上帝的属性是爱

2. God's **COMMITMENT** to **LOVE**
上帝的承诺是去爱

3. **CONSEQUENCE** of **LOVE**
爱的结果

Christians, as **RECIPIENTS** of God's Love
We are

➤ **CALLED** to Love One Another ...

➤ **COMMANDED** to Love One Another ...

Ref John 13:34-35

➤ **Easier said than done ...**

1 John 4:11-12, 7

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.

7 Dear friends, let us **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

3. **CONSEQUENCE** of LOVE 爱的结果

Q: How many of you know that ...

- **People by nature are NOT PERFECT !**
- **Even Christians are NOT PERFECT ?**
- **The CHURCH is NOT PERFECT ?**

BUT ...

❖ **ONLY CHRIST is PERFECT**

POTBLESS



AFTER SERVICE



1 John 4:11-12, 7

7 Dear friends, let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

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.

3. CONSEQUENCE of LOVE **爱的结果**

↪ **Love One Another ...**

↪ **Born of God... His Children**

↪ **'Knows' God... 'intimacy'**





**Dr G Campbell
Morgan
1863 – 1945**



Nancy Morgan

**Who is the
Best Preacher
among the
four of you ?**



1 John 4:11-12, 7

7 Dear friends, let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

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.

3. CONSEQUENCE of LOVE **爱的结果**

↪ **Love One Another ...**

↪ **Born of God... His Children**

↪ **'Knows' God... 'intimacy'**

↪ **GOD LIVES IN US ...**

↪ **HIS LOVE MADE COMPLETE IN US ...**

1 John 4:13-16

13 We know that we live in Him and He in us, because 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 HIM AND HE 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 HIM.

约翰一书 4:13-16

13 神将他的灵赐给我们，从此就知道我们是住在他里面，他也住在我们里面。 14 父差子作世人的救主；这是我们所看见且作见证的。 15 凡认耶稣为 神儿子的， 神就住在他里面，他也住在 神里面。 16 神爱我们的心，我们也知道也信。

神就是爱；住在爱里面的，就是住在 神里面， 神也住在他里面。

1 John 4:13-16

13 We know that we live in Him and He in us, because 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 HIM AND HE 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 HIM.**

1. God's **CHARACTER** is **LOVE**

上帝的属性是爱

2. God's **COMMITMENT** to **LOVE**

上帝的承诺是去爱

3. **CONSEQUENCE** of **LOVE**

爱的结果

4. **COMPANIONSHIP** in **LOVE**

爱的相伴

- Immanuel : 'God With Us'
- Jesus Christ died that we might live ..
- Not only 'live' BUT LIVE -
 - ↳ "through Him" (1 John 4:9),
 - ↳ "for Him" (2 Cor 5:15), and
 - ↳ "with Him" (1 Thess 5:9-10).

1 John 4:17
17 *In this way,
LOVE IS MADE COMPLETE
among us
so that we will have
CONFIDENCE ON THE DAY
OF JUDGMENT,
because in this world
we are like Him.*

约翰一书 **4:17**
17 这样，爱在我们里面得以完全，我们就可以在审判的日子坦然无惧。因为他如何，我们在这世上也如何。

LOVE of CHRISTMAS

1 John 4:17
¹⁷ In this way,
LOVE IS MADE
COMPLETE
among us
so that we
will have
CONFIDENCE
ON THE DAY
OF
JUDGMENT,
because in
this world we
are like Him.

1. God's **CHARACTER** is **LOVE** 上帝的属性是爱
2. God's **COMMITMENT** to **LOVE** 上帝的承诺是去爱
3. **CONSEQUENCE** of **LOVE** 爱的结果
4. **COMPANIONSHIP** in **LOVE** 爱的相伴

↪ **LOVE** made **COMPLETE**

↪ **CONFIDENCE** on Judgment Day

LOVE of CHRISTMAS

CONCLUSION or FINALLY :

All of us want -
All of us need -

- **HOPE ...**
- **PEACE ...**
- **JOY ...**
- **LOVE ...**



This Christmas, if you invite JESUS into your life ...
into your heart ...

You Will Receive All The Above and MORE ...
ETERNAL LIFE

Love of CHRISTMAS

ADVENT

HOPE

JOY

CHRIST

LOVE

PEACE

SO YOU WOULD COME

**Before the world began You were on His mind
And ev'ry tear you cry Is precious in His eyes
Because of His great love He gave His only Son
Ev'rything was done So you would come**

Chorus

**Come to the Father Though your gift is small
Broken hearts broken lives He will take them all
The power of the Word The power of His blood
Ev'rything was done So you would come**

SO YOU WOULD COME

Nothing you can do Could make Him love you more

And nothing that you've done

Could make Him close the door

Because of His great love He gave His only Son

Ev'rything was done So you would come

Chorus

Come to the Father Though your gift is small

Broken hearts broken lives He will take them all

The power of the Word The power of His blood

Ev'rything was done So you would come

ADVENT 2023

HOPE

JOY

CHRIST

LOVE

PEACE