



Rediscover Love

1 John 4:7-16, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Love Unites People

- After Jesus was born, the young couple was united with two senior adults, Simeon and Anna; love unites generations.
- Joseph was about to break off his engagement with Mary until the angel talked him out of it; love unites genders.
- The magi were Gentiles, not Jews, and their inclusion in Jesus's birth story echoes the radical idea that the Messiah brings salvation and restoration to all people; love unites cultures.
- Shepherds, who were considered the bottom rung of social classes, were among the first to get the news of the Messiah's birth; love unites classes.
- A star guided the wise men, and stable animals witnessed the birth of the Messiah; love unites creation.
- The love of Christ builds bridges between those that would otherwise be divided by age, gender, social class, culture, or religion.

Love Is Embodied In Christ

- God is love and the Bible is His love story for all humanity.
- Our relationship with God is a relationship of love.
- Love is God's nature, and He showed it to us by sending Jesus.
- When we come to Jesus, by giving Him our lives, we are restored to love.
- We can count on God's love; it will not let us down.

Love Defines Christians

- Jesus brought reconnection and restoration to love when He entered the world.
- Jesus wanted to make sure that His disciples loved like He did.
- Love is what defines Christians; it marks us and characterizes us.
- Find opportunities in this Christmas season to allow God's love to flow through us to others.

Love Restores What Is Broken

- Our culture, our nation, our world, and our people have multiplied the ways to divide us.
- Throughout Jesus' ministry He continuously reached across the chasm of separation and exclusion.
- Jesus constantly sought to bring people together, to cross the borders, and to tear down the barriers.
- Love overcomes the fear of those who may not look or sound like us or share the same perspective or experiences as us.

Conclusion

- We are completely and totally different from God.
- We might be made in His image, but left on our own, we have absolutely nothing in common with God.
- God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us.
- God made Jesus like us so that He could make us like Him.
- We were enemies with God because of our sin.
- If you would like to cross that bridge and be reconciled to God, you can do that.