

Be Sure of God's Love

1 John 4.7-21

1. 'Agape' Love describes

God's Essential Nature, vs 7-8

God is love v7,16 hence, its source

God is spirit John 4.24 non-material

God is light 1.5 revealing realities

Love characterises the Godhead

Ps 145.13,17; John 3.35,5.20; 15.9

We can only truly know God if we too are loving, by nature and in practise

2. 'Agape' Love characterised

God's Greatest Action, vs 9-10,14

➤ **its manifestation v9 sent only Son**
John 1.14,18; 3.16,18; Mark 12.6;

➤ **its goal v9 life for spiritually dead**
Gen 5.3; Eph 2.1,4-5

➤ **its initiative v10 made first move**

- **its provision v10 propitiation**
sin: our most basic problem
wrath: God's reaction to sin
sacrifice: exhausts God's wrath
John 15.13; Rom 5.8
John 10.18; 1 Pet 2.24
- **its scope v14 everyone!**
John 4.42; 1 Tim 2.3-6
- **its beneficiaries v15**
those giving allegiance to Jesus
- **its achievement v16-18 confidence**
in the face of judgement
Rom 8.1; John 5.24, 3.16-18, 6.37-40

3. 'Agape' Love is expected

from all God's people vs11-13,19-21

- **an obligation v11 we 'ought' to love**
- **a witness vs12-13 it completes it**
it's not one way John 13.34-35
- **an instinctive reaction v19-21**
through God's Spirit within us