

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Romans // The Law of Love

Pastor Gabe

September 4, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What are you excited about this week?

Reading: John 10:22-39

Outline:

- I. God Is
 - A. Throughout history to even this very day, we humans seem to have a “natural knowledge of God”. As Pastor Gabe said, hundreds of years before Jesus, Plato stated there is one eternal God. Today, we often hear language of the divine in phrases about “the universe”.
 - B. Along with this natural knowledge of God, there seems to be inescapable characteristics of God. He is omniscient, good, all powerful, so on. Simply put, God *is*.
Q: Was there ever a time in your life when you could feel the “natural knowledge of God”?
- II. God Is Revealed
 - A. When Jesus is asked if he is the messiah, not only does he agree that he is the messiah, he further says that he and God are one. What makes Christianity different from other conceptions of God is that we believe that Jesus, a *human* who truly *lived through history*, is one with the God who created and sustains all things.
 - B. Jesus reveals that at the very center of reality is a God who from eternity has been pouring himself out in self giving love. As the father loves the son and the spirit and the spirit loves the son and the father and son loves the spirit and the father.
Q: How does this reminder of Jesus’s humanity and proximity to us influence your view of God?
- III. God Is Living
 - A. When we look at the Trinity through the lens of the “divine dance” of self-love, we see that love is in the very essence of God. .
 - B. God is living and active and is moving towards the object of his love: this world, and us. Out of love for us, God created us, the Father sent his Son, the Son willingly went to the cross for us, and the Spirit gave us faith.
Q: How does seeing everything God does as a demonstration of love affect your faith?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we remind ourselves that God is love in times of hardship?
- 2) How can we wrestle with both Jesus’s humanity and divinity?
- 3) How does the “divine dance” concept clarify or add to your understanding of the trinity?
- 4) How can you care for your friends who don’t “do what we do” (live for God)?

Suggestions for further study:

- Matthew 11:3 Q: How does the idea of “looking for another” relate to Pastor Gabe’s point about different conceptions of God?
- John 5:17-43 Q: How does the “divine dance” illustration possibly change the way you read this passage?

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for revealing yourself through Jesus. We thank you that everything you do is out of love, and we ask you to remind us that you are love and to strengthen us during times we may doubt that truth. Help us to remember who you are and to share your love with those around us. Amen.