



24 APR 2022 | LAM ZHENGXIN | GOD IS LOVE | 1 JOHN 4:7-21

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on the condition of our hearts and the view we have taken regarding God's love
2. To grow in our love for others as we walk rightly before God

SERMON SUMMARY

Zhengxin shared about two pointers and their key points:

1. God is Love
 - God's love for us is unconditional ([v 9-10](#))
 - God's love is encountered through the Holy Spirit ([v 13](#), [1 Corinthians 12:3](#), [Romans 5:5](#))
 - God's love is perfected when we enter into a covenantal relationship with Him, not a transactional relationship ([v 13-18](#))
2. We are Called to Love One Another
 - We share in God's nature of love ([v 7](#))
 - Love for one another is a sign of our love for God ([v 8](#), [v 19-21](#))
 - Our love for one another reveals a picture of who God is ([v 11-12](#))

SERMON RECAP

1. Who God is – God is love
 - God's love for us is unconditional - Not that we love Him, but that He first loved us ([v 9-10](#))
 - We have been brought up in a world that teaches us that love is earned. It is shown in our workplaces, friendships and even families. Our experiences teach us that we are loved when we become what others want, or when we do something that has people's approval. Love then becomes conditional. However, God does not love us because we are good. He loves us because of who He is.
 - God shows us kindness and mercy in allowing us to be in relationship with Him first, before calling us to keep His commandments ([1 John 5:3](#)).
 - Right relationship with God comes first, and this will naturally lead to right living for God. We tend to confuse the sequence of things and think we need to live rightly before God if we are to have a relationship with Him.
 - God's love is encountered through the Holy Spirit ([v 13](#), [1 Corinthians 12:3](#), [Romans 5:5](#)).
 - Let us have open hearts to the Holy Spirit and posture ourselves to connect with the Holy Spirit.

- God's love is perfected when we enter into a covenantal relationship with Him, not a transactional relationship (v 13-18)
 - Living like Jesus is the evidence of our relationship with God. Living like Jesus does not save us. Placing our trust in the finished work of Christ does. However, living like Jesus shows that we have truly placed our trust in Jesus, and we are truly in a relationship with Him.
 - A covenantal relationship achieves its intended purpose of God's compelling love to love Him back and to give our lives to Him.
 - It is perfected as we acknowledge our need for Him in our lives and walk closely with Him. It drives out all fears as we walk in the assurance of God's love.

2. The Call to Love One Another

- We share in God's nature of love (v 7)
 - We are called to love one another with an agape love (self-sacrificial, self-giving love).
 - God's love transforms us to become more like Him and this will overflow into our relationship with others. It enables us to love one another even if the person is difficult to love.
- Love for one another is a sign of our love for God (v 8, v 19-21)
 - Our love for one another is a sign of the authenticity of our relationship with God.
 - Growing in love for others reveals that we are growing in our love for God.
- Our love for one another reveals a picture of who God is (v 11-12)
 - We reveal who God is when we love one another. (John 13:34-35)
 - A picture of God is shown to the world when Christian brothers and sisters love one another

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **God is love. Zhengxin shared about how his view of God's love shifted from a meritocratic view to a Biblical one. What is the worldview you hold about God's love, and how has this shaped your interactions with God, yourself and others?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to consider what has shaped their view and understanding of love. Leaders can also get the cell to consider what is a covenantal or transactional view of God's love, and to consider which view they hold. How are these two views different? How does it impact the believer's view of God, self and others?

Members can also share how their interactions shifted when they moved from a transactional to covenantal view of God's love. Members may find that they move between the two in different situations, and it would be helpful to be mindful of the signs that inform that we are living in a transactional view. Some other questions to consider: How can we shift in the view we have about God's love? How are we involving the Holy Spirit in this?



Transition

God is Love, and right relationship leads to right living.

2. **As a cell, share your thoughts about “Right relationship leads to right living”. What to you, is right living? What are some reasons we live with a need to perform? How can we rely on Him to live in His love? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to talk and define the definitions for right relationship and right living. How we define these two terms will determine how we live them out. Thus, it is important for us to have a Biblical definition! Members can also reflect and share on the reasons we live with a need to perform and to share their struggles. Members can use this time to encourage one another as well.

Transition

The struggles we face are real, however we can find assurance as we continue to rely on God and walk in His grace.

3. **How does God’s unconditional love act as a model for us to love others? What are some heart attitudes to have or be mindful of when showing agape love to others?**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to share their experiences in how God’s love enables them to love themselves and others more. The second part of the question aims to let members consider the attitudes they have when they choose to love others with agape love - Are there times where they feel it is a joy or an obligation? Members can later break into groups to pray for one another.

Closing

We are able to live in God’s unconditional love as we have a Biblical perspective of His love. This then allows us to love others the way God loves us.

WORKS

1. Sermon Application

- For God to grant us a deeper desire for Him and wisdom to live for Him in our families and in our circles of influence.
- For us to learn from our past regrets and to press on to what is ahead, keeping our eyes on Christ as our goal and prize

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- We praise the Lord for the relaxation of measures as the cases stabilises in Singapore.
- Continue to pray for protection for our nation as we open up more and more in the days ahead.

3. War In Ukraine

- Pray for Russia and Ukraine as they continue with their peace negotiations.
- Pray for the safety of all Ukrainians especially the churches there.
- Pray for a swift end to the invasion.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Seminar: Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Fridays, 13, 20, 27 May, 8-10pm, Worship Centre.** What does it mean to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, and why was this experience so prominently featured in the Book of Acts? Is praying in tongues the initial evidence for Spirit-baptism? Is there another indicator that one has experienced the infilling of the Spirit? How should we make sense of all these considering the positions of other church traditions? Does it matter whether I pray in tongues? Join us for a special three-part seminar as we explore the understanding and significance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for our lives with the Academic Dean of Acts College, David Lim Han Hui.
2. **Alpha.** We know that some may have many questions about life, God, Jesus and Christianity. Or, maybe they are a new Christian who has just accepted Jesus into their life and desire to embark on this journey with Jesus. We would like to extend a special invitation for these individuals to participate in Alpha at RiverLife. It is a series of 12 sessions (8 online & 3 in-person) where participants can ask anything about life, faith and God in a friendly environment. The first session starts 5 May. Full schedule and registration details can be found here: rlc.sg/alpha.
3. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
4. **SuperLife Camp 2022: #GodFirst.** SuperLife Camp is happening on 9-11 Jun for children in Primary 1-6. Register now: rlc.sg/slcamp2022. Payment can be made in-person in church outside Grace Chapel from 10.30am to 11am.
5. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
6. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this



season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:

- You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can support the work of RCS by participating in our annual Family Movie Day. For instructions on how you can watch a movie this June holidays and stand for families visit this link rlc.sg/rcsmovie.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
7. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
 8. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 9. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. **NO booking of tickets is required.**
 10. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
 11. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
 12. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DTNO.

Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4
Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DSCB.

Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave
029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200711586WDON

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

