

“You Can’t Give Away What You Don’t Have”

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Series: *Living a Life of Love*

“Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another...” 1 Thessalonians 4:9

God is not some distant _____. He has taken personal steps to reveal himself to us in the most intimate ways.

Why Might I Have a Hard Time Giving Love Away To Others?

1. You cannot give the Love of God away, if you have not first _____ it from God for yourself.
C.f. Romans 5:8; Acts 16:31; John 8:24
2. You have _____ a wall of protectionism around your heart and it filters what you let in and what you keep out.

God wants to knock that wall down and the way He does it is through _____. C.f. Luke 3:21-22

Maybe you have constructed a wall around your heart to keep hurts out, but without realizing it – you are keeping God’s love for you out as well.

“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.” 1 John 4:16-17

As you _____ and _____ that love from God, you are going to have a new found understanding of 1 John 3:1:
“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Receiving the Father’s love is the _____ that will get you to the place where you have been designed to live. C.f. Jn. 15:9

“Be imitators of God...as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.” Ephesians 5:1-2.

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