

Love Rules

Pastor's Desk – April 23, 2023



1 John 4:7-8 *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”*

It is only by knowing the Lord, that we can have this love - and it is only by loving that we can know Him. If that comes across like a riddle, it is not the intention.

However, it is somewhat like, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" We acknowledge that God is Creator - that the chicken came first - but science argues this. The beginning of a cycle must exist because one is dependent on the other. When it comes to knowing and loving God, knowing Him is dependent on loving Him, and loving Him is dependent on knowing Him. The two cannot be divided.

Only by determining to love God do we understand what His nature is like, that is, what He is like. However, we cannot obtain that love until we first come to know Him, through constant fellowship with Him. In using that love that He bestows on us, we come to be like God, and only then do we truly know Him.

John says that it is only in encountering God's love for ourselves that we come to know Him truly. This manner of love is something that we have to exercise. All this is possible because God, (here comes the beginning of the cycle) by His love, initiates our relationship.

Therefore, God **summons** us and **imparts** on us repentance, each being an act of love. He then **pardons** us because we repent. This, likewise, is an act of love. He then **grants** us His Spirit so we could fellowship with Him and live in His presence. This also, is a deed of love on His behalf.

By Him giving us His Spirit, we begin to have His love elements in us, and thus now we can start to love Him. We are in communion with Him and can start to yield that love back to Him. We begin to undergo it, and in undergoing it, we begin to know what our God is like. The cycle is working! And as we yield love back to Him, He imparts more to us because we are developing! God's love inside of us begins to be perfected.

So, God in His infinite love begins the cycle, and He, in His love, keeps the process going. Nevertheless, it does demand response on our part: We must revert to Him the love He casts in our hearts, as well as give it out to others. *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* **John 13:34-35**

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos