

Study Notes:

How did you fill in the blank? **Christmas is** _____.

What special memories do you have of Christmas as a child?

What special memories do you have of Christmas as an adult?

Thinking back to Sunday's service, what encouraged you, inspired you, challenged you, or changed your thinking?

How does the world define "love"?

How does the world's definition differ from an "agape" kind of love?

John 3:16 begins, ***"God so loved the world that he gave..."***

What is the connection between love and giving?

A line in Victor Hugo's work Les Miserables says, ***"You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving."***

Do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer.

Read **1 John 4:7-12**.

What is the source of love?

What does a lack of love in us say about our spiritual state?

What does this passage say is the greatest evidence of God's love for us?

What can we learn about God's love from these verses?

Read **Romans 8:31-39**.

How can we gain confidence from verse 31?

We live in a world that is quick to slander and condemn. What assurance do verse 33 and 34 give us?

With all the challenges we face in life, how can we be certain that God's love will never fail us?

It is fairly easy to love those who love us and to be kind and generous with those who act that way toward us. How does God's love challenge us to love and act differently?

GRACE NOTES

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Series: Come Home for Christmas

Message: Come Home to Love

Scriptures: John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:9-11; Romans 8:38-39

Christmas is _____.

Greek Words for Love -

Storge _____

Philia _____

Agape _____

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

(John 3:16)

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(Romans 5:6-8)

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(1 John 4:9-11)

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

