

Love Made From Scratch

John 1:1-18



Background: Carl Sagan once said, "If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe." The Apostle John never met Carl Sagan - but when it comes to God's love, he was in full agreement! God loved us "from scratch"! Come find out this second Sunday of the Advent season what that means for us and for our families as we look at the beginning of John's Gospel together.

Sermon Text: John 1:1-18 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions

- a. Do you know the living God loves you? How do you know that?
 - How do you experience the living God's love?
 - How do you, in turn, enjoy sharing His love? How can you make more space this Christmas to share his love?
- b. "The love of God precedes our performance. It is both unconditional and unpayable." How do you respond to this quote from Eugene?
- c. How would you compare God's love to your own parent's love? If you are a parent, how would you compare God's love to your own parental love?
- d. Eugene said the only form of repayment we can give God is "gratitude and trust." How are gratitude and trust practically being demonstrated in your life during this Christmas season?
- e. For this Christmas season, let's "sink into the bear hug of God" each day. How might you practically do this (some ideas might be – soaking in scripture (maybe the Advent readings), practicing gratitude regularly in prayer, regularly reminding yourself of your identity in his love, practicing a sabbath, etc.)?