

I John 4:9-11
Pastor E. Paul Allen
6-16-19

Open in prayer.

Take time to talk about Father's Day and what it means to you. Everyone's relationship with their father or a "father figure" is different.

- When you hear the word "father" what comes to mind?
- What things have you learned from your father or "father figure"?
- In what ways, if any, do you reflect your father or "father figure"?

Read 1 John 4:9-11 ESV

"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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

- Discuss how this verse expands the reality of God's upward, inward, outward love.

First Value of Transformation Church: A high and lofty view of God.

We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to teach a high and lofty view of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All our actions, teaching, prayer, mission, and spiritual transformation will be driven by our view of God.

- Why is it important for us to have a high and lofty view of God with our families, our friends, our church?

He created us.

Read Psalm 139:14 NIV

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

- Why is it difficult for us to believe and receive that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made"?
- Pastor Paul said his kids "look like" him and Sandy. What does it mean for us to look like God our Father?

He unconditionally loves us.

Read Romans 5:8 CSB

". . .but God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- How does this verse express God's unconditional love in our lives?
- What does it say to us regarding what we have to do to deserve God's love? (HINT: Nothing!)
- How do we reflect God's unconditional love to others?

Read Romans 8:38-39 ASV

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- What does this verse tell us regarding the reality that "in Christ" that there is nothing we can do to separate us from God's love?
- Have you struggled with the idea that God doesn't love you because of what you've done? How does this verse help you with that lie?

He's always there for us.**Read Psalm 139:7-12 CSB and Proverbs 15:3 CSB**

"Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I live at the eastern horizon or settle at the western limits, even there your hand will lead me; your right hand will hold on to me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will be night'— even the darkness is not dark to you. The night shines like the day; darkness and light are alike to you."

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, observing the wicked and the good."

- These verses tell us God is "omnipresent," which means He is everywhere at all times.
- What does that mean to you in times of difficulties and struggles in life?

Read Psalm 147:5 CSB

"Our Lord is great, vast in power; His understanding is infinite."

- This verse tells us God is "omniscient," which means He is all knowing.
- What does this truth tell us regarding God and the situations we face in life?

Read Genesis 18:14b CSB

"Is anything impossible for the Lord?"

- This verse tells us that God is "omnipotent," meaning He is all powerful.
- If God has no external limitations on His power, what does that mean for you as His son or daughter?

Close in prayer.

- Pray for each of us to receive God's love and believe He can love others in and through us.
- Pray for TC Teens Summer Camp, that lives will be transformed.
- Pray for the Five-Year Vision of Transformation Church.

Soul Tattoo

Receive the love of your Heavenly Father and believe He can love others in and through you.

- What does it look like for you to realize God's love in your life today?
- How can you be the heart, hands, and feet of your Heavenly Father to others? (Home, school, workplace, neighborhood, TC, world)