Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – December 22, 2019

**Advent:**

**Celebrating the coming of Jesus**

LOVE: The Transforming Power

Or, How Loving like Jesus Loves Changes Us

John 13:34, 35 (NIV84) A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 15:9-14 (NIV84) As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands, and remain in His love. I have told you this that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

Galatians 5:6 (ESV) For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

1 John 3:16-19 (NIV84) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay our lives down for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.

1 John 4:16, 17 (NIV84) God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in Him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him.

 The Gift of God’s Son, the central message of Advent, is the ultimate gift of love. And while gift-giving is a huge part of this season, sometimes our gifts are unrelated to love.

 Today, let’s spend some time thinking through how basic love is, where it comes from, and how it changes us and everyone we touch, all because Jesus has come.

**Love transforms us because God is love.**

 **God not only loves, He IS love.**

 **To love we must first be loved and know it. God’s love is the foundation for all we do, and is**

 **the safest of all love, since it flows freely from His nature, and does not depend upon**

 **anything we do.**

**Love transforms us because we are His children.**

 **“Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in Him.”**

 **God’s plan is to conform us to His image. Romans 8:15, 29**

**Love transforms us because we obey our Father.**

 **“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.”**

 **We delight to please those we truly love. 1 John 5:1-3**

**Love transforms us because it is the engine of our faith.**

 **“All that counts is faith working through love.”**

 **The faith that justifies shows itself in works of love. Romans 5:5**

**Love transforms us because it demonstrates God’s presence.**

 **“We will have confidence in the day of judgment.”**

 **His image in us assures us of His saving grace. Romans 8:16, 17**

**Love transform us because it frees us from needing The Law.**

 **“A new command: Love as I have loved you.”**

 **This is how and why love fulfills the Law: by embracing its essence and rising above its judgments. Romans 13:8-10**

***The Lesson of Advent Love:***

Because God is love, He gave His Son, and

now creates within His children a love which transforms them

 into givers of all good things to others,

making His presence, power, and glory known to all.

John 3:16, 17

 Is God’s Love Gift of Jesus transforming you?