



## God Myths

**"God = Miffed & Mean" (1 John 4:7-19)**

by Pastor David Hillis, 03 April 2016

**BIG IDEA:** God is *for* you. He always has been (and always will be) hopelessly in love with you, wanting you to be the best *you* that you can aspire to.

### Love Has Its Origin In God (v 7-8)

- 1 John 4:7-8 says that love not only comes from God, but that God is *love*. It's not something He *has*; it's something that He *is*.
- It is only by *knowing* God that we learn to love, and only by *loving* do we come to know God! God *is* love. They are one in the same!

### God's Love is Best Understood Through The Cross (v 9-10)

- God didn't just want to demonstrate how much He loved us. He wanted His love to *save us* from ourselves, and our sin.
- Jesus went to the cross so *that* judgment would be paid. *Paid in full*. He paid the price *Himself*, so that we wouldn't have to take that judgment.

### God's Love Is A Love We Can Reciprocate (v 11-12)

- God's love is a love that we should reciprocate; not a sappy, romantic love but a *self-sacrificing* kind of love.
- According to William Barclay, "We are *never nearer* to God than when we love."

### We Can Have Confidence In His Love (v 16-19)

- God wants us to know that from the creation to the cross, there is nothing that will separate us from His love. We can have confidence; we can *know* that God loves us, that He is *for us*.

## My Next Step

*What keeps you from fully understanding or experiencing God's perfect love in your life? Fear, something else? How might you take a step closer to God to change that?*

### **FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21 this week. Have you ever tended to see God fundamentally as anything other than what you read in these verses? Why? Might that perception need to change, for you to experience God as He wants you to, and how He says He is at the core of His being?
2. Read the prodigal son story in Luke 15:11-32. List out for yourself all the attributes that would describe the father in this story, and ask yourself if these are the same qualities that you have wanted to use to describe God. If not, why not?
3. Read Leviticus 19:19, Matthew 22:37-39, Romans 12:10, Colossians 3:14 and 1 John 3:16. What do you see that these verses have in common? Might this be keeping you from experiencing God's perfect love in your own life? What can you do about it?
4. Read Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 8:39, 1 Corinthians 8:3, and 1 John 3:1. What do you see that these verses have in common? What do you sense God is trying to show you right now?