

Why Community? Because God Loves Us
I John 4:8-19

We Always Start With God: Origins Determine Destiny - Gen 1:1; Jo 8:14

- In God, we find the ideal form of community - I Jo 4:8
- In God, we find both the context and the content for genuine community

This God of Perfect Love Is the Agent of All Creation - Gen 1:26

- He created in love and for the sake of love
- We are created to be at home in His Perfect Love - I Jo 4:16

God's Love Is a Holy Passion for Oneness - Jo 3:16

- His love is a constant source of motion
- His love is the motive force for His coming in Christ

God's Love Is...

...Personal: From a Person through a Person to a person - Ro 11:36

- He comes to us personally in Jesus Christ - Jo 1:1-18

...Up-close: He comes in human form to make His Love visible - I Jo 1:1-4

- He comes to bring a personal and up-close sharing of life - I Co 6:17; Ga 2:20

...Addresses Needs: He is not God against the world, but for it

- He comes to demonstrate that the Divine Solution to the human dilemma is a Personal Savior - Ro 5:8-10
- Through His cross, He offers us a death and a life
- He is our needs met - Col 2:9-10

...Difference-Making: He provides a life different from what we had - II Co 5:17

- He liberates us from the self-consciousness that keeps us self-absorbed - I Jo 4:18

Until We Abandon to God's Love, We Must Take Care of Ourselves

- The more conscious we are of God and His love, the less conscious we are of ourselves and our needs
- As God's always-being-loved children, we can begin to look out for one another the way God looks out for us - I Jo 3:16