

**December 16, 2018 – Elmont Baptist Church**  
**Message Series: Advent 2018 – Enjoying the Wait**  
**Week 4: Love**  
**Text: John 17:18; 20:21; 1 Cor 13:4-8**

Advent begins the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas Day. This year that was December 2. Advent means “waiting” or “arrival”, and it is a deliberate slowing down to appreciate the first coming of Jesus in His birth, and a looking ahead to His coming again. We often don’t think about waiting with enjoyment, but, as followers of Jesus, that’s exactly what were commanded to do. We should be enjoying the wait. Making the most of our time here to the glory of God until Christ comes again or calls us to Himself.

Today will finish up by talking about love, and while not using typical Christmas texts, we will prayerfully see how Jesus’ birth changes every moment of our existence.

Because of God’s love (John 3:16; 1 John 4), Jesus was sent into the world to save sinners by announcing peace with God by repentance and belief in the gospel. That gospel is the forgiveness of sins because of His perfect life, sacrificial death, victoriously resurrection, and glorious ascension. Jesus says as He was sent into the world, so He sends us into the world. We are not the Savior and can save no one, but our mission is to point others to Jesus. In our passage, we see how this happens. How Jesus can use little ole us to help the world know and believe that the Father sent His Son because of His great love for us.

### **As Jesus was Sent, so We are Sent into the World...**

#### ✓ **To Live in Supernatural Unity...**

- **That Jesus prayed for**
- **So we know it’s God’s will**

This doesn’t happen naturally. The world is about competition and division and we are too naturally. Getting churches to cooperate is incredibly difficult. We live in time where too many people think that if we don’t agree on everything, then we can’t agree on anything. Unity is not the absence of disagreement, but that those disagreements pale in comparison to the love, peace, and command of Christ in and on our lives. If Jesus prayed that we would be one as He and Father are one, then that is something we have to make a priority. This kind of supernatural unity will only grow out of a supernatural love.

#### ✓ **Because of Supernatural Love...**

- **The love Jesus came to give us**
- **The love the Spirit grows in us**

John 13:35; 1 Cor 13:4-8 – Is this us? Is this becoming us? This cannot be us as a whole, until this is each one of us individually. For this kind of love and unity become what defines us, we have to do the things that help this grow. Spending time together. Meeting the needs of one another. All the one-anothers of the NT.

As Jesus was sent, so we are sent into the world to live in supernatural unity because of supernatural love to declare the supernatural Gospel.

#### ✓ **To Declare the Supernatural Gospel**

- **The message is too important**
- **To not obey the Master**

We don’t get the option to take the Gospel and expect it to change lives effectively if we ignore the Scriptures about how it must change us completely. If we have not been changed by a supernatural love that is displayed by a supernatural unity, then our work in proclaiming the Good News will be confusing and powerless to a lost world. As David Mathis reminds us, “Christmas reminds us that our life’s dominate note must not be our witness for Jesus, but our worship of Jesus.” Authentic worshippers make authentic witnesses.

### **Thinking it Through...**

- ✓ **What can you do to help grow a greater spirit of unity within this faith family?**
- ✓ **As you read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, where does your love struggle the most?**
- ✓ **Is your witness for Jesus powerless because your worship of Jesus is passionless?**