

## Sermon Notes

Advent 2024-4

**Princess Diana-** “The biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.”

### **Forbes: February 2024**

“‘Affection deprivation’ refers to an inadequacy of emotional warmth, care and nurturing in one’s life, ... such as physical touch, verbal expressions of love, emotional support or acts of kindness that they need from others.”

### **Harvard study: May 2024**

“...taking time each day to reach out to a friend or family member.”

### **False Love:**

1. Contractual “Love”
2. Proud “Love”
3. Guilty “Love”

### **What is love?**

“God is love!” (1 John 4:8)

### **Advent: Wait Expectantly- Isaiah 9:1-7**

Advent 1 - From Despair to Hope - “Mighty God”

Advent 2 - *From Anxiety to Peace* - “Prince of Peace”

Advent 3 - From Sorrow to Joy - “Wonderful Counselor”

**Advent 4 - From Indifference to Love - “Everlasting Father”**

### **Genesis 45:5**

“And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.”

### **Isaiah 9:6**

“For to us a **child** is born, to us a son is **given**, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.”

**Advent 4 - From Indifference to Love - “Everlasting Father”**

### **What kind of Impact?**

#### **Isaiah 9:7**

“Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to **establish** it and to uphold it with **justice** and with **righteousness** from this time forth and forevermore.”

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**Big Idea: The Secret to Transformative Love is to See the Love of the Father.**

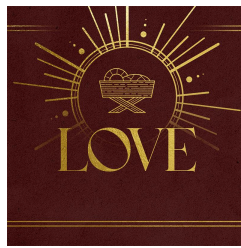
**1 John 3:1a**

"See what kind of love the **Father** has given to us, that we should be called **children** of God; and so we are."

**Galatians 4:4-6**

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to **redeem those who were under the law**, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"

**Big Idea: The Secret to Transformative Love is to See the Love of the Father.**



**From Indifference to Love: “Everlasting Father”**

This advent, we are spending time in Isaiah 9:1-7, to discuss the tension we feel as we wait for the arrival of Jesus. This week we are looking at the love of God as our Father.

1. Share examples of a lack of love in our world. What do you see? How does it affect people?
2. Read Isaiah 9:6. God was not indifferent to our plight. Share what it means to you that Jesus is your “Everlasting Father.” What does it mean that He was not indifferent but came to save us. How has this impacted your life?
2. Read Isaiah 9:7 and recount what God did (*“the zeal of the LORD has done this”*) to ensure the arrival of Jesus? What does it mean that He did this to establish “justice and righteousness”? Discuss.
3. Read 1 John 3:1 and Galatians 4:4-6 and share in your group what it means to you that you are not in a contractual relationship with God, but rather you are His child. What difference does this make in your life? Discuss.
4. At times we engage with God in contractual ways. In other words, *“I need God to help me reach my goals.”*, or *“I need God’s character in my life so others will think more highly of me.”*, or *“I need God’s help, so I will feel better about myself.”* Do you tend to use God and Christianity in this way? Why do we do that? Can you share a time when you loved God simply for who He is? Discuss.
5. How hard has it been for you to “see” and receive God’s love? Share a time in your life when you were able to get a glimpse of God’s love for you.

**Application**

Take a few moments in silent prayer to confess your lack of love and understanding of God’s love for you! Now spend time in your group praying out loud and thanking God for His love for you. Be specific and name things about His character that you are grateful for. Finally, pray for more of His love to flow through you to others.