

Advent – Love

Matthew 1:22-23; 3:13-17

Immanuel (God With Us) is the ultimate expression of God’s love for and delight in you.

Thinking it Through (agree/disagree, consider, contemplate)

“The impostor must be called out of hiding, accepted, and embraced. He is an integral part of my total self. Whatever is denied cannot be healed.”

- Brennan Manning

“Prayer is essentially the expression of our heart longing for love. It is not so much the listing of our requests but the breathing of our one deepest request, to be united with God as fully as possible.”

- Jeffrey Imbach

“When we sin, the very heart of Christ is drawn out to us.”

- Dane Ortlund

Working It Out

1. What stood out to you from this message? Did anything surprise you, unsettle you, or stir your heart?
2. Do you find it difficult to live with a feeling of God’s love for you, individually, on a regular basis? Why or why not?
3. What are some false messages that you have believed about yourself? (i.e. – unlovable, incompetent, underwhelming, etc...) What does it look like to bring those parts of you to God?
4. How might you nurture an *immovable place* of prayer in your life to more regularly recognize your identity as God’s beloved?

Prayer Points

- Pray this passage as a benediction over one another: and use it as a launchpad to pray over the needs of your community, committing them to Jesus.
 - *The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.*
 - (Zephaniah 3:17)
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