

God Is Love

Introduction:

1. The author of this song's lyrics is unknown.
2. It was published in 1885 or 1886 with music composed by Edmund Simon Lorenz.
 - a. He was born on July 13, 1854, and died on July 10, 1942.
 - b. He was a self-taught musician and publisher who composed melodies for hundreds of songs.
 - c. His most well know compositions are "God Is Love" and "Wonderful Love of Jesus," for which he also penned the lyrics.
3. He graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1883, studied theology in Leipzig, Germany in 1884, and was ordained by the United Brethren in Christ in 1885.
4. He also wrote songs under several pseudonyms – John D. Cresswell, E. D. Mund, G. M. Dodge, Anna Chichester, and L. S. Edwards.
5. Today, this song is in the public domain.

Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love;
 Let heav'n and earth their praises bring, God is love;
 Let ev'ry soul from sin awak'z, Each in his heart sw'et music mak'z,
 And sing with us for Jesus' sake, For God is love.

Oh, tell to earth's remotest bound, God is love;
 In Christ we have redemption found, God is love;
 His blood has washed our sins away, His Spirit turned our night to day,
 And now we can rejoice to say, That God is love.

How happy is our portion here, God is love;
 His promises our spirits cheer, God is love;
 He is our sun and shield by day, Our help, our hope, our strength and stay,
 He will be with us all the way, Our God is love.

Refrain:

God is love! God is love!
 Come, let us all unite to sing That God is love.

Text: 1 John 4:7-12

- I. God Is Love (vs. 8b)
 - A. The purest form of love is agape – a love that seeks what is best for another.
 - B. It is an unconditional love...
 1. For Family (1 John 3:1)
 2. For Friends (Matthew 11:19; 26:50; John 11:11; 15:13-15)
 3. For Enemies (Romans 5:6-10; Colossians 1:21-22)
 - C. It is a sacrificial love.

1. Consider the life of Jesus (Luke 2:7; 8:3; Matthew 8:20).
 2. Consider the death of Jesus (John 3:16; 1 John 3:16).
 - D. It is an eternal love (Matthew 25:34; 2 Peter 3:9; Jeremiah 31:3).
- II. God Is the Source of Love (vs. 7-8a)
- A. As darkness is the absence of light, so evil is the absence of God (cf. 1 John 1:5).
 - B. Love is of God (cf. 2 Corinthians 13:11).
 - C. Love is evidence of one's relationship with God.
 - D. Love is evidence of one's knowledge of God.
- III. God Is the Manifestation of Love (vs. 9-10)
- A. God manifested love by sending His Son.
 - B. God manifested love by giving man life.
 - C. God manifested love by forgiving man's sins.
- IV. God Is the Motivation of Love (vs. 11-12)
- A. God's love for us motivates our love for others.
 1. For Family (Matthew 10:37; Ephesians 6:1-3)
 2. For Friends (Luke 11:5-6; Acts 10:24; 27:3)
 3. For Enemies (Matthew 5:43-45; Romans 12:19-21; Galatians 4:16)
 - B. As we love one another, our love for God matures.

Conclusion:

1. This understanding of love is quite different from the world's point of view.
2. There is nothing powerful enough to remove one from God's love (Romans 8:38-39).
3. God seeks to guide man into His love (2 Thessalonians 3:5).
4. By keeping oneself in the love of God, salvation is secure (Jude 21).