

Sermon Notes

God's Secret Weapon Part 1

January 6th – January 7th, 2024

- **God's Secret Weapon:**
- Christmas Eve was intro to this series. God's Secret Weapon? His love for us all!!!
- **1 John 4:7-21**
 - o We love because He first loved us. (v7, 10, 11, 19)
 - Drive pully concept.
 - o Context of 1 John is the Body of Christ, the "Church" loving one another.
 - Holds for all 4 that we are instructed to love: love God, love your neighbor, love your brothers and sisters in Christ, and love your enemies.
 - It is so important that we share the heart of the Father towards other people.
 - My though: if God loves you right now, and I'm with Him, how should I see you??
- If we don't love, then something is missing. **1 John 4:20**
 - o Lack of love/unity show that there is a problem. Think of this as a diagnostic tool.
 - Somehow **1 John 4:7** isn't working. Disconnect between drive pull, you, and next pully.
 - o So, if we see this, we need to go back and see if there is a monkey wrench in the works.
 - Car example: if the car won't go, I need to know why.
 - Don't just start pushing the car. Find out that it's out of gas and put some gas in it!!
 - Don't just grit your teeth and try to love people, that gets weird in a hurry.
 - Instead, try to know God, be born of God, feel the love of God, and then let that flow into your heart for others. Then **1 John 4:7** starts to actually work!
- I see 4 key ways that a monkey wrench can get in the works here.
 - o Compare to the 1,000s of diagnostic issues. Ex: lack of love, complacency, factions, sins, fear, etc.
 - o 1) Mimicking. Mimicking the right outcome instead of fixing it from the inside out.
 - Don't just make "vroom" noises...fix the car!!
 - A very common error. What is your reaction to **James 2:26**? Should be to fix your faith!!
 - o 2) Getting it backwards. Similar idea to #1, but involves trying to get God to love you.
 - God loves you right now. Let the grace of God wash over you and quit trying to deserve it.
 - o 3) False Lords and Saviors. Missing **1 John 4:16** by knowing and relying on other things.
 - Classic modern idolatry. Trusting in money, thinking addictions will help, can even be politics, theology, or church/church leaders.
 - Pharisee's error: they knew and relied on their religious position. That put them at odds with Jesus!
 - o 4) Just missing it. Not aware of God, the plan of redemption, etc.
 - More and more people think life is a pointless cosmic accident. I disagree.
- Paul makes this point, that believers should love one another, quite strongly in 1 Corinthians.
 - o Let's read: **1 Cor 1:10-13, 1 Cor 3:1-4, 1 Cor 6:5-8, 1 Cor 10:14-17, 1 Cor 11:17-29**
 - Let us examine ourselves and get first things first.
 - Jesus died for you. Feel and understand the grace of God.
 - Then love one another.
 - What if we got this right?? Good Hope. Lakeside. The region. And beyond???
- Get prayer by emailing the prayer team: prayer@goodhope.ag