**Sharing God’s love in the Nation – 1 John 4:10, 16b – end – by Robert Lovatt**

The above passage has quite a lot to do with the love of God but at first sight not much to do with the nation. Quite true! The purpose of this study is to focus on the nature of Christ’s love and to then consider how it might apply to the nation. For the purpose of this study consider the nation as the UK and not just England. We could spend the whole bible Study just in 1 John 4 and no doubt more than one Bible Study because there is so much in it. That might however diminish the breadth that our title suggests.

Warm up questions

1. Where do you see our national life thriving and doing well?
2. Are their areas of our national life that need improvement?
3. What are the ways that the wider church can contribute to this improvement?
4. How many marks out of 10 would you give the church in relation to the above question?

God’s Love

Verse 10

1. Thinking about the love between God and his people what is the primary direction of that love in v.10? How might this direction (of love) be seen in terms of creation, the incarnation and redemption? (Creation Gen 1:31 – 2:3, Incarnation John 1:14 and Redemption John 3:16)
2. Why is atonement necessary? Why can’t love just be offered without atonement? In what sense is Jesus an atoning sacrifice for our sins?
3. If this atonement is necessary, what does it say about the seriousness of sin?
4. What hope do we have if we try and bypass the atonement?

Verse 19

1. If the primary direction of love is from God to us what is the order of that love as expressed in verse 19?
2. How does our understanding of the saving work of Christ in relation to sin magnify our understanding of God’s love?

Applying what we’ve learnt to the nation?

1. Share in the group those channels of love between God’s people (the church) and the nation that you know about?
2. Is it simply enough to love the nation with ministries of kindness such as foodbanks, homeless shelters, street pastors and other similar works of love? If not, what else is needed?
3. Looking back over whatever span is appropriate for your age how has the place of faith and Christianity changed in our land over that period?
4. How practically can we be involved in sharing God’s love in the nation?