**Date: 3rd September 2017**

**Sermon Title: Love of the Father**

**Preached by: Ryan McGowan**

**Big Idea/Sermon focus:**

* God’s Love is the perfect example of Fatherly Love
* He loves us not because of who we are, but because of who He is

**Key Scripture/s:**

* Roman 5:3-5
* 1 John 3:1-2
* 1 John 4:7-10

**Summary:**

No matter what our experiences with our earthly father (good, bad or indifferent) we all have a Heavenly Father who loves us - even in our unworthiness. The Greek word ‘Agape’ is used to encompass the many attributes that help describe why He loves us. The attributes include, but are not limited to: amazing, everlasting, unconditional, powerful, unfailing and restorative. He loves us because of who He is – Love.

**Questions for Small Group Discussion:**

1) Read Ephesians 3:16-19. What does this passage tell us regarding the love of God? Consider how we might grasp something that surpasses knowledge.

2) Read 1 John 4:8 and Hebrews 12:5-11. Discuss the concepts of unconditional love compared with discipline borne out of love.

3) Read Psalm 51:1-2. God’s Love is both unfailing and restorative. Compare and contrast these attributes regarding human relationships.

4) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. This describes numerous other aspects of God’s Love but how does this apply to us, His children?