Firm Foundations

11) The Love of God

Where do we get our perspective of God?

Jesus is 'the image of the invisible God' (Col.1:15) Jesus loved His disciples 'unto the end' (Jn.13:1)

'He showed them the full extent of His love' (NIV)

The Cross is the full extent of God's love to us

'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends' (John 15:13) Did the disciples get the revelation of His love?

✓Some got it (e.g. John, Jn.13:23; see Gal.2:20)

✓ Some were going to get it (e.g. Peter, Jn.13:36-38)

✓One never got it (e.g. Judas, 13:24-26) John received the greatest revelation of love and was the best teacher of it.

He taught us that:

1) The unconditional love of God is the foundation of our relationship with Him

'In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins' (1 Jn.4:10)

We are rooted in God's love

2) Knowing God's love is not sufficient; we must also believe it

'We have known <u>and believed</u> the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him' (1 Jn.4:16) 3) Faith reaches maturity through a revelation of God's love

'The one who fears is not made perfect in love' (1 Jn.4:18)