

God Is Love **September 5, 2021**

1 John 4:7–18

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:11

“According to 1 John 4:8, God is love. He is the source of love and love is the distinguishing mark of all that He does (1 John 4:7). God's love is the divine attribute that helps us to keep many of the other attributes of God in perspective.” - Dr. John Koessler

A.W. Tozer once stated, “Nothing God ever does, or ever did, or ever will do, is separate from the love of God.”

Big idea - Our ability to love is enabled through God’s love.

“For the kind of love that God calls us to—the love that loves our neighbor as much as we love ourselves— that must come from Him. We cannot love like that without first being born of God.” - Trillia Newbell

God’s Love is Demonstrated by:

I. His Example

1 John 4:7–8 - *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

He demonstrated his love by example: nothing is more powerful than a personal example!

In 1 John 4:7, 8 John resumes the subject of love for one’s brother. He emphasizes that love is a duty, consistent with the character of God. Since God is love, intimate acquaintance with Him will produce love.

To be born of God is to love others.

God’s love is demonstrated by:

II. His Sacrifice

1 John 4:9–12 ⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to* be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to

love one another. ¹² No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

He showed love through His sacrifice ...

1 John 4:9 ESV

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

It cost God His son! If one wishes to know how God has demonstrated His love, they need only look at the fact that God sent His One and only Son into the world that we might obtain eternal life thereby.

Moreover, this love was not a response to man's love, but an initiative on God's part.

1 John 4:11 ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Let this sink in!

God's Love is Demonstrated by:

III. His Faithfulness

1 John 4:13–18

¹³ Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

- His love is shown by the fact that it is everlasting.
- His love is not subject to your actions
- His love is all grace and an everlasting gift.
- His love is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Hebrews 13:5 ESV

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

God's love and salvation is secured forever.

John 10:28–29 ⁻²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Have you accepted God's Love?

1 John 4:7 KJV 1900

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

As a Christian are you known for your love of others?

SEED Group Questions:

9/5/21

Icebreaker:

Any victories or defeats you would like to share?

Explain to the group an area in your life that Christ has changed in a visible way to others.

1. Explain 1 John 4:11 - Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
2. Explain: John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
3. A preacher once said that John 13:34 is the visible birthmark of a Christian. Explain this statement.
4. Why is an seeing the example of others such a powerful illustration of what needs to be done or happen in your life? How has the lack of examples of godly Christian living hurt the cause of Christ?
5. Explain sacrifice. Give an example of someone sacrificing for you and how that made you feel.
6. What is needed for something to be a sacrifice? Why is God's sacrifice of His Son so such a profound demonstration of His Love?
- 7 God's love was not a response to man's love, but an initiative on God's part (1 John 4:10). Explain the significance of this. Along these lines, what is the only reason we love God according to 1 John 4:19?
8. How has God's faithfulness been a demonstration of His love to you?
9. To make this personal, if you are to love God and love others what must change in your life? Your response to your enemies? How you address politics? How you handle family issues? Please elaborate.