

THE LOVE OF GOD – God Is Love

1 John 4:7-12 - God's Love and Ours - ⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹**This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.** ¹⁰**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us** and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, **since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.** ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Intro: There is **nothing like the love of God!** It is the most overwhelming thing I have ever encountered in my life.

It is the greatest thing God ever did for any of us! The reason I can say that is this, **because He loved us,** He was moved to do everything else **that He has done.**

Allow me to mention this morning that **John's epistle has a 4 fold purpose.**

1 John 1:4 - And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- That our joy in Him might be full (*or complete*)

1 John 2:1 - Christ Helps Us - My children, I am writing this so that you won't sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, and he will speak to the Father for us.

- That we might not sin against Him

1 John 5:13 - All of you have faith in the Son of God, and I have written to let you know that you have eternal life.

- That we might know that we have eternal life

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

- That we ourselves might love others the way God loves us

There is a fifth, unspoken reason - It is to share the great love of Almighty God.

This letter was written to combat a heresy known as **Gnosticism**.

- The Gnostic believed that **knowledge was the way to God**.

They believed they had a special knowledge of God and His ways. ***They preached that salvation came through secret knowledge about God and His ways.***

John is writing to put them into their place! And he does, he tells the rest of us about **a great God with a great love for great sinners.**

1 John is the great **book of love**. Love is mentioned **46** times in **135** verses.

It's the great love of our great God that I want to speak about for a few minutes.

Let me share the lessons found here about **The Love Of God.**

I. V. 7-11 HOW GOD'S LOVE IS DESCRIBED

Love is usually thought of as a **feeling**, in reality, **love is a choice** and an action!

A. **It Is Unspeakable** - I can't understand it, but I know I have experienced it.

- It worked a miracle in my heart and **caused me to love Him**,

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

B. **It Is Unending** –

- There is a difference between **infatuation and love!** God's love is eternal!

Jeremiah 31:3 - The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: (Israel) "I have loved you with an **everlasting love**; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

C. **It Is Unselfish** -

It asks for nothing in return! However, it leads man to **repent and turn** to God in love - **1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

D. **It Is Unmerited** - Cannot be earned or deserved!

God loved us because **He desired a people to love**. His love is based on His grace!
God loves us because He chooses to love us.

E. **It Is Unconditional** - It is not based on what we can or cannot produce, it comes from the heart of God.

- **God loved us first**, He loved us anyway, *He loves us eternally!*
- **Nothing** can separate us from the love of God,

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

F. His love is **Supernatural**, it is **Sacrificing**, it is **Satisfying!**

II. **V.10 HOW GOD'S LOVE IS DEMONSTRATED**

God's love can never be fully understood, **but it can be seen!** *It is best seen at the cross!*

A. **He Stood In The Gap** - The Lord **Jesus placed Himself** squarely between guilty sinners and the wrath of Almighty God,

1 Pet. 2:24 "*He himself bore our sins*" in his body on the cross, so that **we might die to sins** and **live for righteousness**; "by his wounds you have been healed."

B. **He Saved Us From Hell** - It is His death on the cross, the death that released His precious blood, that **opened the door of salvation for every sinner** who will come to God. *Thank God for the Blood of the Lord Jesus!*

I. How God's Love Is **Described** II. How God's Love Is **Demonstrated**

III. **V.11-12 HOW GOD'S LOVE IS DISPLAYED**

Besides Calvary, **the greatest canvas for the love of God is the lives of those redeemed by grace**. - If we are saved, and HAVE the love of God, **it will be visible in our lives!**

A. Throughout the Bible, there have been men who demonstrated God's love:

- **Forgiving Love** - Joseph - Gen. 45:1-8 (Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He Is)
- **Redeeming Love** - Hosea - Hosea 3:1-3 - Hosea's Reconciliation With His Wife Gomer.
- **Compassionate Love** - Barnabas - Acts 15:36-41 ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them and had not continued with them in the work.
- **Healing Love** - Paul - 2 Tim. 4:11 Paul was feeling lonely and was missing his helpers. God sent his faithful worker back to him (Mark). Paul recognized him as a good helper and a faithful Christian!

******Men are limited in their ability to love, but God possesses every shade of love imaginable!**

B. When the love of God is present in the life of a believer, it will be visible in 5 different areas.

- **Love For The Savior** - John 14:15 (Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit)

"If you love me, keep my commands.

- **Love For The Scriptures** –

Psa. 119:105 Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.

- **Love For The Sanctuary** - Not that we honor a building, but we honor what happens in this building.

Heb. 10:25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- **Love For The Saints** - **When the saints walk in love, the world sees God!**

1 John 4:20-21 (CEV) But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God, if we don't love the people we

can see? 21 **The commandment that God has given us is: “Love God and love each other!”**

- **Love For The Sinners** - Pray, **tell** others, and **live** clean before them.

Jesus had a **heart for sinners** –

- **God’s love** is more than just being loved!
 - **It is opening our lives so that the Lord can love through us.**
 - So that He can reach a world for Himself.
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CLOSE: 1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

- We ought to praise the Lord for **His overwhelming love!**

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Matt. 22:37-38 (CEV) ³⁷ Jesus answered:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.³⁸ ***This is the first and most important commandment.***

Matt. 22:39 (CEV) ³⁹ The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, ***“Love others as much as you love yourself.”***

Let’s love others exactly as we have been loved by God

The best way we can thank Him for His love is by letting Him love through our lives and reach others for Jesus.

- Let’s come before Him and thank Him for **loving people like us.**
- Let’s prove our love for God by **loving Him**, and by **doing His will** and **being what He would have us be...**