



Series: 1 John

Lesson: 12. A Theology of Love

Passage: 1 John 4:7–21

STRONGLY Recommended Reading: 1 John (weekly) & Gospel of John
(at least once during our study)

The development of ‘loving the brethren’ in 1 John:

A. 2:7–11—It is essential to abiding in the light



B. 3:11–18—What it looks like lived out



C. 4:7–21—Its origins, proofs, and effects

- **What is real love? (vv7–12)**

- The command to love another is rooted in its origin

‘_____.’

- God _____ love.

- This is another example of how true children of God _____ their Father.

1 John 2:29 – If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Luke 6:36 – Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

1 Pet. 1:15–16 – but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

- This also demonstrates the biblical understanding of God being _____ and immanent.
- God proved that He is love by sending His Son to us to be our _____. (cp. 2:1–2)
- This proves His love because:
 - It was the ultimate _____ of love.
 - It was a _____ love. (cf. v19)
- We ought to do the same for each other to imitate our Father. (cf. 3:16)

- The closest anyone can come to _____ God on earth is when we love one another!
 - Loving God and loving others are inextricable. (i.e., Matt. 22:37–40)

- **How do we know we have it? (vv13–16)**
 - The _____ abiding in us
 - It's logical: God is love, and the Spirit is God in us.

 - Trusting the _____ witness
 - They are the authorities on what God's love is. (cf. 1:1–4)

 - _____ of Who Christ is
 - Correct theology flows from God's love.

 - _____ about and _____ in what God did
 - BOTH are needed and demonstrate God's love in a person.

- **What is the result? (vv17–21)**

- God's love is _____ in us. (cf. John 17:20–21, 25–26)
- God's love gives us _____ so that we don't need to have fear in the day of judgment.
 - How do we balance that with these verses?

Psalm 111:10a – *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;*
(see also Prov. 1:7a; 9:10a)

- God's love in us can't help but produce love for the _____.
 - To say we love God without love for people means we really just love a construct of our own imaginations.

What Do We Do with These Truths?

1. The true essence of Christianity is to _____ like God.

Blanks: from God, is, imitate personal, propitiation, extent, monergistic, seeing, Spirit, apostolic, Confession, Knowledge, belief, perfected, confidence, brethren, love