



We Should Love One Another (Part 2)

Lesson 8 (1 John 4:7-21)

The Bible does not just say that God is loving; it says that God is love. Every choice He makes flows from the fact that He is love. Throughout the end of this chapter, John connects God's love with our need to love. We will seek to unpack why we should love one another.

I. We should love one another because God is the source of love (4:7-11).

This passage presents both a blessing and an obligation. Those who have been born of God should love because God Himself loves.

- A. God's love _____ our love (7-8).**
People simply cannot be in a right relationship with God without His love impacting them. Knowing God means that we will love.
- B. God's love _____ our love (9-11).**
God's love creates love within us. If we are struggling to love, the solution is to be reminded of the great love that God has for us.

II. We should love one another because love demonstrates the indwelling Spirit (4:12-16).

At salvation, God's Spirit comes to dwell in us, and He makes a difference. If there is no difference, there is no Spirit.

- A. God is _____ in those who love him (12-13, 16b).**
When the invisible God takes up residence, you can tell by the way the person loves. People will know that God is real, and that He is real to us, by the way that we love.
- B. God is abiding in those who confess Jesus by faith (14-16).**
John once again ties together right belief, specifically about Jesus, with right practice, specifically loving the brothers.



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III. We should love one another because great confidence comes to those who love (4:17-21)

John doesn't want believers to fear when Christ comes, but to have boldness because they are confident their sins have been forgiven and that the love that God has given them has worked itself in their life.

- A. Loving others removes the fear of _____ (17-18).**
Our love ought to bring about boldness, both now and ultimately in the day when we stand before God.

But isn't a healthy fear of God a good thing (cf Proverbs 1:7)? Why does John say that perfect love casts out fear?

These are two different senses of fear. The fear in 1 John is a fear that God will punish. Those who see God as a mean, heavy-handed deity will fear because they don't understand God's love. A healthy fear of God recognizes who He is and fears what would happen if we rebelled against Him.

As the life of Christ flows through us and reorients our thinking, desires, and will, it is less likely that we will make boldly sinful choices that would bring the righteous judgment of God. Our love for God pushes out fear of God and gives us greater confidence.

- B. Loving others shows that we truly love _____ (19-21).**
John pulls no punches. If you say you love God but don't love people, you are a liar.

Those who understand God's love and who have God dwelling in them will love God and others. As God's love perfects us, matures us, and forms a powerful love within us, we will be increasingly confident in our relationship with God. This is the life that God desires offers to you and me.

Next Week: Faith is the Victory (1 John 5:1-13)

According to John, what does true faith believe?

According to John, what does true faith do for us?

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