

How God Shows Love **1 John 4:7-12**

CONTEXT

1. **The issue: Assurance of salvation. Can a person know for certain that they are saved? Yes! 1 Jn 5:13**
 - John (their pastor) is telling them the evidence to look for to know that they have eternal life.
2. **The Christian's life is characterized by belief and love. 3:23; 4:1-6 (Belief); 4:7-21 (Love)**
 - In order to know true teaching, you need to know the Scripture (1 John 4:1-6).
 - In order to know true love, you need to know God (1 John 4:7-12).
3. **"Love one another" is the recurring theme in v.7-12. He says it 3 times:**
 - v. 7: let us love one another (exhortation)
 - v. 11: we also ought to love one another (duty)
 - v. 12: if we love one another (hypothetical)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS. v.7-8

1. **God Himself is the source of love. v.7: ...love is from God...**
 - Love comes from God.
 - Therefore, the one who loves has been born of God and knows God. **v.7b**
2. **God Himself is the origin of love. v.8: ...God is love.**
 - Therefore, the one who does not love does not know God. **v.8a**
3. **John's argument: We are called to love one another on the basis of God's character.**
 - Love one another not simply because He has commanded us to love, but because of who He is.
 - Want to love one another? You need to know God. (Not just know about Him, but know Him.)
 - We are not left to our own devices, imaginations about what it means to love one another. God tells us...

LOVE ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE OF HOW GOD HAS LOVED YOU. v.9-11

- God's love is made manifest (demonstrated, revealed, shown) by this...
1. **God demonstrated love by sacrificing for the well-being/life of others. v.9**
 - God's love is a sacrificial love.
 - "*God sent His only Son into the world*" ("world" in 1 John 2:15-16 is a dark, hostile, anti-God place)
 - God sacrificed for the life and well-being of others. v.9b: *...so that we might live through Him.*
 2. **God demonstrated love by reconciling with His enemies. v.10**
 - Propitiation for our sins. Ref. 1 John 2:1-2
 - = the satisfaction (removal) of God's just wrath toward sinners by the atoning sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ.
 - John 3:16: For God so loved the world... John 3:36; Romans 5:6-11
 3. **We are called to love one another in the way in which God loved us in Christ. v.11**
 - Love one another self-sacrificially; for their good, truly dealing with sin, forgiving when wronged, etc.
 - Love one another b/c of commitment to relationship, not worthiness of the other. (Marriage, children, etc.)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE THIS IS HOW WE SEE GOD. v.12

- The world 'sees' God when we love one another.
1. **No one has ever seen God. v.12**
 - Except for when God the Son physically lived on the earth.
 - Lit. "God no one has ever beheld"
 2. **The Scripture says that God lives in His people (abides, takes up residence). 1 Jn 3:24, Jn 15:1-11; 17:26**
 - God abides in us through His Spirit
 - John: If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is 'perfected' in us. = 'completed' 'made full'
- This is how we 'see' God! This is how the world 'sees' God!

Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

“He who takes up the sword perishes by the sword. He who refuses to take up the sword perishes on the cross.”
-Gene Edwards

Register to vote in the upcoming election!

Go to www.registertovoteflorida.gov

If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, go to:
<https://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>

If you do not have access to the internet or are not confident in using it, call the church office, ask for Pastor Ken, and he will assist you. Church office: 941.926.4777

The annual **March for Life in Washington, DC** is planned for **January 29, 2021**. Hundreds of thousands gather to make a public, prayerful, and peaceful witness against legalized abortion. Pastor Ken & family plan to attend again this year. Please join us! Now is the time to start planning.