**IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

1 John 4:7-5:21

Key verse 4:12

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is love

1. Read 4:7-12. What does it show when believers love one another? (7-8) How did God show us his love? (9-10) Why should we love one another? (11-12)

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever 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. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

Living in God’s love

2. Read 4:13-21. Why is it important to acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God? (13-15) What does it mean to know and rely on the love God has for us? What outcomes can we experience when we know and rely on God’s love? (16-18) What must we do in response to God’s love? (19-21)

*13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*

Victory Through Keeping God’s Commands

3. Read 5:1-5. How can we love God? (1-3a) Why is it not burdensome for us to keep His commands? (3b-4a) How can we overcome the world? (3-5)

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

The Testimony of God

4. Read 5:6-12. What are three that testify about Jesus Christ? (6-8) In what respect is God’s testimony greater than human testimony? (9-10) Why is it important to believe God’s testimony about his Son? (10-12)

*6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30633a)*] Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Jesus The True God and Eternal Life

5. Read 5:13-21. What was John’s purpose in writing these things? (13) How can we be confident in our prayer life? (14-15) What should we do if we see our brother or sister commit a sin? (16-17) What did he remind them of in order that they may not continue to sin? (18-19) How can we keep ourselves from idols? (20-21)

*13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

*16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.*

*18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*