

GOD'S LOVE AND MAN'S LOVE

1 John 4:7-21

Key Verse: 4:7

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read verse 7. What does it mean that man's origin is in God? (Ge 1:1,27) What does it mean to be born of God? (Jn 3:3) What is the origin of love? Why must we love one another? How can we?
2. Read verse 8. Why does one who does not love not know God? Why must love be rooted in God's love? How is man's love different from God's love? Think of some examples of selfish love.
3. Read verses 7-8. What do these verses teach about God? About love? What does it mean that we are commanded to love? (Jn 15:12) Think of some examples of real love.
4. Read verses 9-10. How has God shown his unselfish love among us? What did it mean to God to send his Son? As an atoning sacrifice? How does this give us life?
5. Read verses 10-12. How is God's humbleness revealed in his love? (Jn 1:3,4; Php 2:7) In view of God's love, what ought we to do?
6. Read verses 12,17-18. Why is it unnecessary to cling to icons or religious pictures? How can we know God whom we can't see? How can we grow in love?
7. Read verses 13-16. How is forgiveness related to love? (8,9) How can we know that God lives in us? What does it mean to acknowledge that Jesus is God's Son? What does it mean to rely on God's love?
8. How is God's divine initiative revealed in his love? (10,19) How did Jesus love others first? How can we? Read verses 11-12 again. How can God's love be made complete in us? (16-17) Why does love drive out fear?

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9. What does God command those who receive his gift of love to do? Why is this an imperative? How is this different from man's love?