



**“Love Flows”**  
*The More We Know, The More We Love*  
I John 4:7-12

*Love flows from God’s:*

**I. Person** - “God is love ” (vs. 7-8)

*Love is found in His:*

- A. Character** - “love is of God”
- B. Children** - “every one that loveth is born of God”
- C. Companions** - “and knoweth God”

**II. Practice** – “He loved us ” (vs. 9-10)

*Love is:*

- A. Seen** - “manifested the love of God toward us”
- B. Sustaining** - “that we might live through Him”
- C. Satisfying** - “the propitiation for our sins”

**III. Presence** - “God dwells in us” (vs. 11-12)

*Love is known by:*

- A. Desire** – “we ought to love one another”
- B. Display** – “no man hath seen God at any time”
- C. Design** – “His love is perfected in us”

Sentence Sermon:

**“Beloved, let us love one another.”**

Additional Verses

- *I Peter 1:14-16*
- *II Peter 1:4*
- *Matthew 22:37-40*
- *Deuteronomy 7:7-8*
- *Jeremiah 31:3*
- *Ephesians 2:4*
- *James 1:17*
- *Romans 5:5, 8; 8:9; 32-39; 9:13*
- *I John 1:5; 2:3-5; 3:5, 8; 4:17*
- *Lamentations 3:22-23*
- *Hebrews 1:1-2; 3:1-2*
- *John 4:24*
- *I Timothy 1:17; 6:16*
- *Exodus 33:22-23*
- *Isaiah 6:1*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in this passage?
2. What does “love is of God” mean?
3. Why can John be so sure about those who love?
4. Does John say if we don’t love we are not saved?
5. How does the fact that “God is love” make a difference to you?
6. Why did God take so long to manifest His love toward us?
7. Why doesn’t our love for God demonstrate the essence of love?
8. How does the fact of God’s love obligate us to love one another?
9. What about Jesus being a propitiation for our sins shows love?
10. What does it mean that Jesus came that we might live thru Him?
11. How important is it for His love to be perfected in us?
12. Why does John bring up that no man has seen God at any time?

# INTRO:

Why is it expected that we love the brethren?  
Is it possible for every believer to love the brethren?  
How does one become more loving?

Bowl , Picture, Glasses Demonstration.

v. 7 .

- Beloved = 3 times in this chapter 1, 7, 11
  - 6 times in this letter
    - 4 times the theme is love
- Let us = ...as believers we should make it an ambition or priority to love

Love one another = reciprocal....love flowing both ways...(TESTIMONIES ?)

- Have testimony time where people in the congregation testify to when someone else in the congregation showed love towards them.
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- For love is of God = “ek” love flows from its source which is God and no place else
  - Definite article before love....the Love is from God
- Everyone that loves is = statement of fact
  - born of God = clear statement of salvation
  - And knoweth God = present tense indicates....a daily experience of getting to know God and understand Him better...ie. Spiritual growth

*True theology (study of God) is not a dry impractical course in doctrine – it is an exciting day-by-day experience that makes us Christlike! Warren Wiersbe*

V. 8

- He that loveth not = the absence of love in one’s attitude and practice...an absence of love
- Knoweth not God = Is not familiar with God and displays ignorance, misinterpretations, and misrepresentations of God
- For God is Love = speak of God’s character....along with “God is Light” ...which John also declares in this letter. ...literally The God is Love
  - Love is not God...definite article is with God...otherwise gives a basis for pantheism
  - Love does not define God BUT GOD defines love.
  - “Because God is Love, He works against whatever works against love.” Herschel H. Hobbs, *The Epistles of John*

v. 9.

- In this = herein ...as in v. 10, 13, 17
- Was manifested the love of God towards us = to make visible, clear, come out into the open...opposite of “to hide or keep secret”
  - Because God sent = has sent = perfect tense...indicating an abiding impact of the crucial sending.
    - From the perfect indicative active of the word for **apostle**...one sent as an official authoritative representative.
  - His only begotten Son = “**monogenee**”...only one of its kind ...
    - Word order...***because the son of His the only one of its kind sent God into the world***
    - Repeated definite article with
      - **T**he Son - Deity
      - **T**he Only begotten - Uniqueness
    - Into the world = the realm that Jesus was sent into where the people to whom He was sent were living.
  - That we might live through Him = The Intended Result --- bestowal of life was Jesus’ mission...He that has the Son has Life...I am come that they might have life and that abundantly

• That we might LIVE:

- Through Him I Jn 4:9
- For Him II Cor. 5:15
- With Him I Thes. 5:9-10

v. 10

- Herein is love = true love
  - Better translation “ In this way is seen the true love...”
- Not that we loved God =Fallen humans are not naturally in love with God
- But that He loved us = that He Himself loved us...***”was original and spontaneous, the source of all other love.”*** W. H. Bennett
  - And = “kai” connects God’s Love with His loving action.
  - sent His Son = a distinctive landmark
    - To be the propitiation for our sins = a succinct statement of purpose for Jesus’ mission to Earth.

v.11.

- Beloved = again clearly identifying his audience
- If = First class conditional ...states the reality and implies there is no doubt that it is true
- God so loved us = “us” more personal with John included
- We ought = not external compulsion but inner propulsion of conscious obligation

- Present tense signifies a continuing obligation
- Also to love one another = we are to display our Father's love

v. 12

- No man hath seen God at any time = no need for mystical encounters or Existential adventures into the Spirit World
  - No one at no time
  - Seen = from the word that Theatre is derived from...implies careful observation or scrutiny
- If = 3<sup>rd</sup> class conditional ...it is possible !!
- We love one another = love that's mutual & reciprocal
  - God dwells in us = we are saved...Romans 8:9
  - And His love is perfected in us = *We are getting to know God ....sanctification ....And God's love has been brought to its intended goal in the believer's life...the consistent practice of loving one another !*
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A .W. Pink describes seven qualities of God's love that I think are helpful

(A.W. Pink, The Attributes of God, p. 77)

### **Uninfluenced**

(Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

There is nothing in us that influences God to love us. He loves us because he chooses to love us and .

### **Eternal**

The LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; . (Jeremiah 31:3)

### **Sovereign**

(Romans 9:13)

### **Infinite**

(Ephesians 2:4)

### **Immutable**

/Unchangeable(James 1:17)

### **Holy**

(1 John 1:5)

### **Gracious**

(Romans 8:32-39)

*Tish Schweedle – pneumonia*

*John Schweedle – cancer on liver*

*“ I have nothing but friends there ”*

*V 7-8 – Imitates – The Person of God*

*V 9-10 – Initiates – The Practice of God*

*V11-12 – Illustrates / Illuminates – The Presence of God Influence*