

# WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US

## I. THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY BOOK THAT ACCURATELY EXPLAINS GOD'S LOVE

## II. THE REASON WE CAN LOVE IS BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US – 1 John 4:19

A. The only way you can truly love is by first knowing God's love. 1 John 4:7-8

B. "*We love*" can mean "*we are loving.*" We are to continuously love. We are to walk in love, we are to be loving people - this is to be our lifestyle. Ephesians 5:1

C. God first loved you, you didn't first love Him. You had a sin nature that couldn't love God. It wasn't your idea to love God, it was God's idea and plan to love you, and God's power that enabled Him to love you and save you.

D. "*He first loved us.*"

1. God the Father loved you in that He chose to save you in eternity past. Eph. 1:4-5
2. Jesus Christ loved you when He died on the cross to save you. Ephesians 5:1
3. The Holy Spirit loved you in that He was drawing you to God, and was the One applying Christ's work to your life. John 3:6, Titus 3:5
4. We see the Trinity's work in loving you, the love of God the Father, of Christ and of the Spirit. God loves you in a collective and individual way. 1 John 4:9-14

## III. GOD LOVES YOU BUT YOU NEED TO DO YOUR PART

*"Keep yourselves in the love of God."* Jude 20

A. Read God's Word, for it speaks in great length about this love God has for you.

B. Read what God's Word says about how He loved you by saving you. You are righteous, redeemed, reconciled, forgiven, adopted, a child of God and sealed by the Spirit.

C. Confess your sins to God, and then you will freshly experience the forgiveness of God, the tender love God has for you. 1 John 1:9

D. Take part in communion – this is an important way to be reminded of God's love for you.

E. Obey the Lord - "*He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me, and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.*" John 14:21

F. Praise the Lord, and He will then fill your heart with His love for you.

G. Ask God to show you His love. *“For you, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.”* Psalm 86:5

H. Love others and then you will be loved. Luke 6:38

I. Think of all the ways God loves you, and this will help you to love Him and others.

#### IV. YOUR ABILITY TO LOVE COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love.”* Galatians 5:22. *“Your love in the Spirit.”* Colossians 1:8

#### V. YOU SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR GOD BY LOVING OTHERS – 1 John 4:20

There were people who said they loved God, but they didn't love others. Therefore, we conclude that they really didn't love God. You are to show your love for God by loving others.

WE KNOW LOVE BY THIS,  
THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US,  
AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHERN.  
1 John 3:16

#### SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What does it mean to *“walk in love?”* What does this look like?
3. Why is it important to be loved by the Trinity? How does it make you feel, being loved this way?
4. How are you going to keep yourself in God's love? What specifically are you going to do?
5. What verses in the Bible really encourage you about God's love for you?
6. In what particular ways do you see God's love for you?
7. How are you doing in loving others? In what ways do you think you need to improve?