

1Jn 12 - **Disciples Love Because God Is Love - 1Jn 4:7-12**

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**WHY is us Loving One Another Soooo Important ?**

Is it because it's the "***Christian thing to do?***"

Is it because we should be saying "***Can't we all just get along?***"

Is it even just because Jesus said

***"by this all will know that you are my disciples?"***

NO ! - These are not the real foundational (bedrock) reasons  
that we absolutely MUST Love One Another

The absolute foundational reason

that we MUST Love One Another - is because - **GOD IS LOVE !**

& if He lives in you - & you live in Him

& if your life has Truly been Surrendered to His life

Then We MUST Love . . .

Because GOD IS LOVE

& it's HIS LIFE - that's living in US

**Paul puts it this way in Gal 2:20**

***20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me . . .***

If THAT is true for you & I

Then one of the clearest INDICATIONS of that

Is that we will be Loving One Another

**Let's Pray**

One of the most consistent lessons in 1John is;  
WHERE we stand with God,  
is revealed by HOW we act toward one another

That's a huge truth, & we've seen it a lot  
& we can be thankful for it

We shouldn't be fearful if we're not "measuring up"  
as in - have I done enough to earn my spot (or 'get in')

But instead - we should be thankful  
that God's Word gives us tangible, practical ways  
for us to know if the life of God is truly living in us, or not

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In this section - the Apostle John turns back  
to a very familiar theme in this epistle

that is - the absolute requirement,  
that we love one another

It is the THIRD major time  
he's addressed this critical subject

& every time this subject comes up in 1John,  
we are driven deeper into its truth

in 2:7-11 it was - ***Whoever loves his brother abides in the light***

in 3:11-18 it was - ***We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers***

NOW Today - Love is revealed as God's very NATURE - which takes it  
to the highest pinnacle of the command

Certainly today - we see the HIGHEST REASON that we, as Christians, are absolutely OBLIGATED to LOVE One Another

in these 2 Vs's John lays the foundation (basis) for WHY it is an Absolute Requirement that Christians Love one another

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Let's Start - - **Vs's 7 & 8** go together  
as the **Positive** & **Negative** side of the same truth

**1Jn 4:7-8 - ESV**

***7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.***

***8 Anyone who does not love - does not know God, because God is love.***

John begins **V.7** by reminding us of Jesus' command that we must "Love one another"

**Jn 13:34 - ESV**

***34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.***

**Jn 15:12 - ESV**

***12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.***

**Jn 15:17 - ESV**

***17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.***

John is simply re-teaching exactly what Jesus originally taught him

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He says - **Beloved, let us love** (tense = continual) **one another**

BECAUSE - **love is from God**,

& then he states the **POSITIVE truth** - end of **V.7**  
**and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God**  
(ginosko, tense = 'is continually knowing')

& then the **NEGATIVE truth** in **V.8**;  
**anyone who does not love does not know God**  
(ginosko, tense = 'has never known')

That's the way it's been ALL THRU 1Jn

Who we **ARE** in God, is revealed by How we **LIVE**  
. . . our actions **reveal** where we **truly stand** with God

**Anyone who does not love does not know God** - Really, the inference here is - anyone who CLAIMS to know God, but DOES NOT Love, should be very concerned, about whether they truly know God or not

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& **then** - at the **end** of **V.8**

Not only is love FROM God (v.7)  
meaning He is the SOURCE of Love

but even more - V.8 says **God IS love** - He **exists** as Love

**GOD IS LOVE - & if we say that:**

We've surrendered our life to Him as Lord  
He lives in us, & we live in Him . . .

& yet we have **NOT LOVE** . . . **1Cor 13** says  
we are a **Big Clanging GONG** (*remember the GONG Show?*)

John is giving us yet another LITMUST TEST

To understand if we truly **KNOW** God  
- intimately, experientially - He LIVES In us

OR - if we just **SAY** we **KNOW** GOD  
but maybe it's more of an intellectual knowledge only

So - If we look for the Supernatural Love of God in our lives  
& it's really nowhere to be found

Then (maybe) - we need to truly surrender our life to Christ  
Begin to really follow Him as our Lord

& ask him every day to fill us with His Holy Spirit

& I promise you - if we will do that  
we WILL begin to see the Supernatural Love of God in our lives

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Now - let me just PAUSE for a minute  
& deal with a very common objection to Biblical Christianity

The end of V.8 says - **GOD IS LOVE**

& that is absolutely TRUE  
& *people love to say that - God is Love*

But then people will USE this truth  
to actually CHALLENGE God's Word

Or they'll TWIST UP this truth  
to make up their own image of God

Listen to this quote by the great commentator John Stott

***It is important to hold the assertions about God together . . . the words "God is Love" mean not that loving is 'one of God's activities' but rather that 'ALL his activity is loving activity'***

That is a great quote - - Because the truth that God's very nature is LOVE - means that ALL of God's Activities, are done in LOVE

Which means that we CAN'T Design our own God - by saying - ***Well, a loving God would only do the things that I SAY He would do . . .***

God **IS** Love - & so - WHAT HE does - He does in Love

The Bible says "GOD IS" quite a few times

God is **Spirit** - Jn 4:24

God is **Light** (righteousness) - 1Jn 1:5

God is **Holy** - Psa 99:9 & thruout the Bible

God is **Merciful** - Psa 116.5

**AND** God is the **Righteous Judge** - Psa 7:11 & thruout the Bible

God is **LOVE** - 1Jn 4:8

**AND** God is a **Consuming Fire** - Heb 12.29

God is ALL those things - & more

But the thing we need to understand is  
God is ALL those things - **IN LOVE**

The truth that GOD IS LOVE, means that  
in ALL His activities, in ALL areas - He IS LOVING

But when this truth is "CLASICALLY MISUSED"  
people say something like . . .

***"IF God is a God of Love - then He would only do - what I think a  
God of Love should do . . ."***

& then they RE-DEFINE God in THEIR OWN TERMS  
based on what they think LOVE means

Let me give you an example - & see if you can relate

Imagine yourself back in the Terrible TWOS  
. . . Man, you were ROTTEN !

& when you were raging around in your terrible twos

Your parents were doing some things  
that YOU didn't consider loving

Because you were a self-centered 2 year old Brat

But here's the question

did the fact that YOU didn't understand or agree with your parents  
- did that mean that they were NOT LOVING ??

Does the fact that you don't understand or agree with God  
mean that He's not Loving ??

NO !! - it means in some sense - you MIGHT still be in your Terrible  
Twos, thinking that you really should be able to still call all the shots  
and have it all your way

cause that's what we thought  
when we were in our terrible twos, wasn't it?

Isn't there a chance - that some of us may still be in our Terrible Twos  
in our relationship with God

Thinking that everything should be like we would want it to be

but guys - even if we throw a 2 year old temper-tantrum against our  
Heavenly Father - GOD IS STILL LOVE

& one of the ways He proves it - is by NOT squishin' us like a bug  
when we try to tell Him how to do His job

GOD IS LOVE - which means ALL of His actions - are done in love  
whether we think so or not !

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& as we continue in our text

we see the MOST Unconditional & Sacrificial Love  
that could ever be shown to us by God

this is the Ultimate & Supreme PROOF of God's Love

### **1Jn 4:9 - ESV**

***9 In this the love of God was made manifest (clearly shown) among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.***

The God who EXISTS AS LOVE

Has clearly shown His Love toward us - by HIS actions !

The supreme revelation of God **as love**

is in Him sending His Son to  
Die in our place,  
Pay the full price for our sins,  
*while we were still His enemies*  
So that we might Live thru Him

*Expand & transition . . .*

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V.10 is a continuation of the truth of V.9

**1Jn 4:10 - ESV**

***10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***

V.9 says - ***the love of God was made manifest to us - by Him sending His Son into the world - so that we might live thru him***

& then V.10 gets more specific, it says - ***This is real love, that God sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins***

Propitiation means - "Atoning Sacrifice", or, "Appeasement"

It means that - altho Jesus was Sinless  
He TOOK ON our sin & paid the full penalty required

So that the JUSTICE of God & the WRATH of God upon sin  
could be Satisfied in Christ - on our behalf

This is an incredible & life changing truth

But notice two things for me;

- 1) God's love is shown in an incredible sacrificial ACT

in other words, the fact that "God is Love"  
is not just an intangible, feel good concept

God's love is shown in a very real, very tangible, sacrifice  
for the good of those He loves

Love is a Tangible VERB - it is shown in Tangible ACTION

#2) This is an incredible response to those who would say  
something like - **"Well, if God is a God of love, then He would . . ."** &  
then they make up their own definition of how God should show His  
love ACCORDING TO THEM

BUT THIS is the Supreme Proof that God is Love;

That He sent His only Son into the world, so that we might LIVE thru  
Him

& the way that was accomplished was - by God pouring ALL of our  
sin upon His sinless Son

& requiring Him to pay the full & complete payment for our sin

so that you & I could receive the righteousness of God in Christ  
& live forever - with God - as Joint-Heirs with Christ

guys - & it constantly blows my mind that people would USURP the  
authority & plan of the God of the Universe

& say **"Well, IF God really were a God of love, then He would do  
things the way I would do them"**

PLEASE, don't do that !!

& try not to let other people do that **to you**

The cold hard fact is - **WE** are **NOT** God

& the God Who IS God - has Clearly Shown us His Supreme Act of Love - by giving His only Son, as a SACRIFICE, so that we might LIVE thru Him

& not only Truly Live in this life - but live for Eternity with God - As a Joint heir with Christ - When our sin should have Eternally separated us from God

So - The next time someone says ***"How can a God of Love do things DIFFERENT than how I think He should do them?"***

Try saying to them (lovingly) ***"How could there be any greater display of God's Love, than Him sacrificing His only son's life, in your place , while you were His enemy, so that you could live forever with Him, when you deserved His total judgment?"***

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Now - getting back to our Primary Context here

### **1Jn 4:11 - ESV**

***11 Beloved, if God so loved us (if He loved us in this way), we also ought to love one another.***

The NLT translates this "IF" as SINCE  
SINCE God loved us in this way

"ought" is a financial term - it means obligation or debt  
we OWE IT to God - to love each other

If God

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MacDonald

This is the most concentrating teaching on the Love of God in all scripture - & so we're going to take it in two messages

Loving deeply requires God life in you - you & I cannot love like this without the life of Jesus in us

Because this supernatural love is FROM GOD - we can't come up with it ourselves - w/o Christ - we only have NATURAL Love - & honestly - that's nothing - we can only love like this if we truly have Jesus Christ living in us - until we are truly Born Again

v.9 - Propitiation = sufficient payment to satisfy the wrath of God against your sin

Zeph 1:14ff - the wrath of God is coming

Rev 6:15- the wrath of God is coming

the only provision that has been made for the wrath of God upon our sin - is the full penalty being paid on our behalf by Jesus Christ

1Thes 1:10 - Jesus rose to deliver us from the wrath that's coming

God sent His Son to die under His Wrath in our place - so that we could live with him forever - THAT is what love looks like

v.11 - God makes us love - the church ought to be a place where people can come & absolutely be loved

v.12 - Very Possibly - the truest test of whether God is actually in your life, of whether Jesus Christ is actually living in you - is the test of His LOVE in your life - not natural SELF-CENTERED Love - By the way - Self-Centered Love is when you do something loving for what it will GET YOU - Remember that - if you think your acting lovingly - but your motivation is to GET something in return - then THAT is NOT the Love of God - Because the Love of God Loves expecting NOTHING in return

The word "Perfected" here actually refers to a PROCESS of growing maturity - see NIV - it's a process - we need to be growing in this, I need to love more like God & less like me every year

James MacDonald says: "**God's love is not completed when YOU receive it, but when OTHERS receive it, through you!**"

& I've seen this HERE in our church - & when we see it - it is NOT Natural - It's Supernatural - & we've got to keep growing in this Supernatural Love