



# PAINTING GOD WITH BRUSHSTROKES OF LOVE

1 John 4:11-21

What if you could conclusively prove to the whole world, once and for all, the existence of an Almighty God of love by producing a certified portrait of Him - an actual painting of His face, conveying His majesty and compassion, that would move even the most skeptical unbeliever to acknowledge that God is real? Can you imagine the commotion something like this would stir, not to mention the price such a canvas would command? Alas, there is no chance this will ever happen because the Bible very clearly says that God is totally invisible (1 Timothy 1:17). But, there is another way to help people “see” that God is real, that He is near, that He is wonderful, that He is the answer to all their needs, and that He offers them His eternal life in Heaven. In 1 John 4:11-19 the Apostle John tells us that if believers will share the “agape” love of God among themselves, then the invisible God can be seen by all those who desire to find Him. Let’s take a look at how this works in today’s message.

## HERE’S WHAT WE’RE ASKED TO DO

(v.11)

Love one another with ...

## WHY IT MATTERS

(v.12)

- Because God is \_\_\_\_\_. Because people need to “\_\_\_\_\_” God.
- Because it is agape love that makes God \_\_\_\_\_ to those who will follow Him.

## WHAT OUR AGAPE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER WILL HELP OTHERS “SEE” OF GOD

1. (v. 13a) That God wants ...
2. (v. 13b) That God has given us the ...
3. (vv. 14-15) That God has proven His love for us by ...
4. (v. 15) That God is ...
5. (v. 16) That God will provide us with ...
6. (vv. 17-18) That God takes away all our ...
7. (v. 19) That God is the initiator of the ...

## TODAY’S TAKEAWAYS

Our love for one another is what helps other ...

Identify and rectify anything that is ...

Enhancing the love in the church family ...

## FOR THOUGHT & TALK

*In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John’s message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.*

1. Read aloud 1 John 4:11-19 in two different translations. Have you ever been a little confused about this “God is invisible” concept that PJ mentioned? How would you explain it to a new Christian?
2. When we, as brothers and sisters in the church, love one another with God’s agape love, how will the Holy Spirit use that to help others (especially unbelievers) see God for themselves? What are the qualities seen in a church where the people are loving one another well?
3. Can you share (briefly) a story about someone you’ve known, here at NCFE, that exhibited love so well that it impacted the church in significant ways? How can you personally enhance the quality and quantity of agape love right here in our own church family?
4. Please spend extra time in prayer together during this small group gathering. Pray specifically that God will help our church family to love each other better. Pray that as we do, the Holy Spirit will use this love to open the eyes (and hearts) of unbelievers to Jesus so they can “see” God, too.

*3.7.21 - 23rd in a series of messages by Pastor John K. Nagle from the Book of 1 John.  
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