



The apostle John often referred to himself as the one *whom Jesus loved*. Now, John wasn't trying to be boastful or prideful when he made that statement. Rather, John was simply expressing his total joy and humble wonder that Jesus (God in human flesh) could, and would, actually love him so much. John was *stunned by the stunning love of God!* As long as he lived, John never got over his utter amazement and sheer delight that the perfect God would love him so perfectly. In **1 John 4:7-12**, "the Apostle of love," (the nickname given John by other Christians), uses the word "love" 27 times to not only describe the love God has for us but also to tell us how to love one another in the family of God. Today as we study **1 John 4:7-10**, we'll discover what it means for a follower of Jesus to *be loving others God's way!*

### IMPORTANT STUFF ABOUT "LOVING ONE ANOTHER"

It is at the top of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ list for His \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(1 John 3:23-24)

The 4 kinds of Love ...

### HOW LOVING OTHERS GOD'S WAY WORKS

1. (v. 7a) Loving others God's way starts by realizing ...
2. (v. 7b) Loving others God's way relies upon God as ...

3. (vv. 7-8a) Loving others God's way is the ...
4. (v. 8b) Loving others God's way helps them ...
5. (v. 9a) Loving others God's way involves ...
6. (v. 9b) Loving others God's way is ...
7. (v. 10a) Loving others God's way involves ...
8. (v. 10b) Loving others God's way takes ...

### TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

Loving like this isn't easy for anyone, but it is ...

Loving like this isn't to merely be your tendency, but it is to be ...

Loving like this is "do-able," but only by asking the ...

### 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 4:7-10** in two different translations. According to **1 John 3:23-24**, what are God's two top priorities for Christians? What are some things that can help us keep these priorities in the top spot of life?
2. What does it do to your perspective to hear that God has given the unique privilege of spreading His agape-love to others, exclusively into the hands of Christians? How are you sharing that agape-love with fellow followers of Christ?
3. What is the difference between "God is love" and "Love is God?" How does God's love interact with His holiness; with His judgment and the concept of Hell; with His mercy and grace; with how He disciplines us when we sin; with what Heaven will be like?
4. What does it mean that agape-love is to be our trademark rather than merely our tendency? What are some things you've personally learned from other believers who really do have God's love as their trademark?