



The New Testament was written in the ancient Greek language of Jesus' day. They used four words to describe **love**; the highest and best kind of love being **agape**. The Apostle John tells us that God alone is the only source of **agape love** because it is always pure, always selfless, always wants what is best for others, and is always unconditional. Experiencing **agape love** involves surrendering our lives to Jesus as Savior and following Him as God. When we do, the Holy Spirit floods our lives with agape love and leads us to lavishly share it with our brothers and sisters in the family of God. This is so cool! Okay, most of the time it is cool **but** not all of the time! Face it, there are some Christians who rub you wrong. When this happens, Satan then tempts you to not give them **agape love** even though your Savior has said to do so. Listen: Every day we have a choice to make regarding believers we feel at odds with. Will we choose to be ticked off at them or tenderhearted toward them? Beloved, we know what God wants. **1 John 4:20-5:3** teaches us **how to love other believers you aren't real happy with**.

STUFF TO KNOW ABOUT LOVING OTHER CHRISTIANS YOU'RE NOT ALL THAT HAPPY WITH

1. (v 4:20) Ouch! If you don't love them ...
2. (v 4:21) There are no exceptions to ...
3. (v 5:1a) It is the new birth from Jesus that ...
4. (v 5:1b) We're talking ...

5. (v 5:2) The more you love God the more He'll help you ...

6. (v 5:3) Love the tough ones to love and your ...

7. (v 5:4-5) Loving like this is a step of faith that will ...

SOME "HOW TO" IDEAS

1. Make a "ticked-off" ...
2. Next, realize what ...
3. Next, follow Jesus ...
4. Keep focused on ...

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 4:20-5:5** in two different translations. PJ mentioned the difference between approaching this life with **expectations** for self, others and circumstances versus **anticipation** of God. What is the difference between these two approaches to life? How does "anticipating God" figure in to loving people you find hard to love?
2. "You don't love God if you don't love His kids, including those you find hard to love." Why do so many of us not want to believe this truth from **1 John 4:20**? In other words, why do we harbor anger, hurt and disappointment, leading to the building of relational walls, rather than pursuing and finding loving solutions?
3. Did you know that this previous year of COVID-19 has brought about more anger and division in Jesus' Church than any thing else Satan has used in decades? Why do you think that is? Have you found yourself angrier at your brothers and sisters in Christ? From PJ's message, what did you find most helpful or convicting in terms of dealing with anger?
4. How will loving fellow believers, especially those you are finding hard to love, result in fewer burdens and more blessing?