



est. 1796

FOR CLARKSVILLE, PART 1: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FOR?

What does it mean to be for something? In a world where so many people are AGAINST so many things, God calls us as the church to be FOR others, because God is FOR us and sent His Son FOR us.

BIG IDEA: Loving Others is not an option!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

** Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. What characteristics or strengths did you get from your father? Your mother?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, read [1 John 4:7-21](#).

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

[1 John 4:7-21 \(NIV\)](#)

3. Love is mentioned 27 times in this passage. What can you learn about: it's origin? It's connection with spiritual reality and knowledge? It's relationship to God?
4. What models of love (its effect, its motive, its action) do you see here? How can love be suppressed? How can it be made complete or perfect?
5. From verses 8-15, what can you learn about the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit? About their relationship to us?
6. How does the fact that *God is love* relate to the fact that *God is light*?
7. In your life, when has perfect fear cast out love? When has God's love cast out fear?
8. How will you put this sacrificial love in action this week? At home? Work? In a difficult relationship? In how you spend your money? On social media?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

1 John 4:7 (NIV)

for.