



## Week 13 Study Guide

### Read the text: 1 John 4:7-21

*4:7 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. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide 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 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

### Study the Text

- Make some observations...what jumps out to you? What are key words/phrases? Any repeated words? How does this passage fit within the larger context? What questions does this passage raise?
- John says that God is love (verses 8 and 16). What does this mean?
- What is agape love? How is it different than other types of love?
- Look at verses 9-10. John uses the phrase, "in this is love." How does John describe how God demonstrates his love? Be as specific as possible. If that is the ultimate expression of love then what does it look like for us to love others (what are some elements of loving others in this way)?
- What can our love or lack of love be evidence of and why (v. 13-21)? Discuss the different ways that John makes this argument.

- What does John mean when he says that God's love is perfected in us (verse 12; also see verse 19)?
- John speaks of the day of judgment. What does the Bible say about this future day? John says we shouldn't face that day with fear. How does love drive out fear?
- This is one of the places in the Bible where we see all three members of the Trinity in one passage (Father, Son, and Spirit). What do we believe as Christians about the Trinity? What do we learn about each person here? Why do you think John includes all three members in a passage about love?
- What is John's point about loving God whom we can't see and loving people we can see? How does this relate to humans being in the image of God?
- John's letter is very rich doctrinally. What are some theological concepts that are mentioned in this text? Discuss what we learn about God, Jesus, and our salvation.
- How can we obey this command to love others, especially those in the church?

### **Prayer**

- Praise God for his love
- Confess your lack of love for others
- Pray specifically for each other in how you can grow in your love

### **Mission**

- How we love each other is one of our greatest witnesses to the world. How can our group better love one another? Perhaps think of one or two actionable steps the group can take to grow in your commitment to each other.