

## 1 John - More Love

Icebreaker: what is your favorite love story either in the movies or a novel, fiction/non-fiction?  
Guys have to answer too!

**Culture's theology of love: love yourself and those who benefit you...**

*People will be lovers of themselves... (2 Tim. 3:2)*

What are some specific examples on how you see the above verse played out in today's society?  
**John's theology of love...**

- **God is the standard of love** – “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” **(1 John 4:7-8)** – Reread the verse. According to this verse, can anyone love apart from God? Is that surprising to you? How do you explain that?

‡ **Common objection: how can an all-loving God allow evil and suffering?** – “Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?” **(Gen. 18:25c)**

- **Jesus is the application of love** – “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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” **(1 John 4:9-10)** – Take a deeper look at verses 9-10. What are some principles you can glean from this passage on how to love like God loves us? Do you love like that?

‡ **Common misconception: You have to earn God's love** – “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” **(Rom. 5:6)** – In theory we believe Romans 5:6, but practically speaking, what are some ways in our Christianity are we (you) are still trying to earn God's love?

- **Christians are the extension of God's love** – “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us... God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” **(1 John 4:11-12, 16b)**

‡ **Common objection: Christians are judgmental, not loving** – “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” **(Luke 6:37)** – How do we show God's love as Christians? How are we not showing God's love as Christians? What is one thing you can do in order to better demonstrate God's love this week?

*We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)*