

message summary

Christmas season is a time of year where love is expressed through the giving of gifts. In this passage the apostle John writes to us that the greatest of these gifts is that Jesus took on flesh and blood and stepped into the world in order to dwell with His people. God steps onto His own canvas in order to demonstrate His love for us. In a world that overly emphasizes that you can fall in and out of love the apostle John teaches that love is much more than a feeling. The apostle says in order to really know what true love is we need to look toward Jesus and how He demonstrated love by laying down his life for us. The apostle says that followers of Jesus show this same type of love to others. He underscores the inseparable connection between loving one another and knowing God. Let's read **1 John 4:7-21** and see how our love for others is a demonstration of our relationship with God.

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observation

- What key themes or words related to love are repeated throughout this passage?

- How is the relationship between God's love for us and our love for others described in this passage?

- What assurances or benefits are mentioned for those who abide in God's love?

interpretation

- How does this passage contrast with the world's view and perception about love?

- Have you ever doubted God's love for you? How does 1 John 4:9 encourage us during these times of doubt?

- How does perfect love relate to the elimination of fear, according to this passage?

INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION

application

- How can believers practically demonstrate God's love to others in their daily lives?

- What obstacles or challenges hinder believers from expressing love as described in this passage?

- How can the group collectively nurture a culture of love within their community or church?

APPLICATION · APPLICATION · APPLICATION