

Nothing to Fear, Nothing to Prove

Love No Matter What

"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.

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.

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.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 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 them.

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 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.

*We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." **1 John 4:7-21***

1) _____ is love. Period.

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." (4:8)

"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 them." (4:16)

2) Love is always the _____

"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..." (4:7-8)

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (4:11)

"We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." (4:19-21)

*"We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." **2 Corinthians 10:5***

3) _____ no matter what

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."
(4:12)

Who should we love?

- Love God - *"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."* **Matthew 22:37**
- Love our neighbor - *"And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* **Matthew 22:38**
- Love fellow Christians - *"Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."* **1 John 4:21**
- Love our enemies - *"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."* **Matthew 5:44**

"By THIS everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:35**