



An Invitation to Joy

A Series from 1 John

Let Us Love One Another: Here's Why!
1 John 4:7-12

Let us love one another because love is from God.

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.

Text Message:

- Here John makes two powerful statements regarding love:
 - 1) Love is from God.
 - 2) God is love.
- Let's look at the first of these.
- The Greek word translated "from" here (ἐκ, *ek*) is a good translation and modern English versions translate the word as "from" (ESV, many others), "of" (KJ21), "comes from" (CEV).
- While not wrong, none of these is a most literal translation.
- The word (ἐκ, *ek*) is best translated "out of" and is related to our English prefix ex-, as in the word "exit."
- Love is not just a "thing" that God gives or does, but it is Who God is in His very essence: "God is love."
- If God could be squeezed, love would be exhaled!
- This idea would've been foreign to the proto-Gnostic false teachers of the first century and to most religions today.

Let us love one another because "love does."

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.

Text Message:

- In other words, love is a verb! Love is in motion!
- Remember the idea that God is love, and if God could be squeezed, love would be exhaled?
- This is exactly what took place at the crucifixion of Christ: God was squeezed to death and love exhaled to the world!
- Why? Two answers:
 - 1) John's Gospel: "that whoever believes may not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
 - 2) John's Epistle: "so that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9
- Do you see that together God's love in Christ covers heaven and earth, life and death, today and eternity?
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Let us love one another because love intersects heaven and earth.

^{12b} If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Text Message:

- This is such incredibly good news because it answers the question of, "What about **this** person?"
- Read Galatians 2:20 and 1 John 12b again.
- It is not "my love" for this person, but "God's love" perfected (maturing) as Christ lives His life through me!