

# “Knowing God Through Love”

## 1 John 4:7-14

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Subject: Knowing God Through Love

Object: Behold God’s love and extend it to each other

1. God commands us to love (7-8)
2. God reveals true love (9-11)
  - a. God reveals the extent of true love (9)
    - i. John 3:16: God so loved the world, that He gave
    - ii. God’s love is a self-sacrificial love “Sent His only begotten Son into the world”
  - b. God reveals the nature of true love (10)
    - i. *“God, who needs nothing, loves into existence wholly superfluous creatures in order that He may love and perfect them. He creates the universe, already foreseeing - or should we say "seeing"? there are no tenses in God - the buzzing cloud of flies about the cross, the flayed back pressed against the uneven stake, the nails driven through the mescal nerves, the repeated incipient suffocation as the body droops, the repeated torture of back and arms as it is time after time, for breath's sake, hitched up. If I may dare the biological image, God is a "host" who deliberately creates His own parasites; causes us to be that we may exploit and "take advantage of" Him. Herein is love. This is the diagram of Love Himself, the inventor of all loves.” - CS Lewis*
3. God frees us to truly love (12-14)