

God is Love
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1 John 4:7-8

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God Is Love.

“Love here is not merely an attribute of God but defines his nature, though in a practical rather than philosophic sense. God’s nature is not exhausted by the quality of love, but love governs all its aspects and expressions.” *The Interpreter's Bible*

As a Christian here’s the issue with that...

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

There are prerequisites to actual true love

- Being born of God
- Knowing God
- If God is love, then He defines Love, not us.

9 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. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Observation 1:

Jesus is the proof of God’s Love for us.

- God loved us before we loved him.
- Jesus’s life is proof of this love.
- “... that we might Live through him”

- Since the fall we have been separated from God (True Life)
 - o Kicked out of the Garden, No longer eat from the Tree of Life.
- God's plan was to make a way for us to be back with him again.
- Jesus is that way for us to have life again.

This understanding is the difference between God's love & the culture's love...

“God's love begins with the main issue, The culture's love begins with “my” issues.”

God's love originates with solving the main issue...:

- A separation from Real Life.

The culture's love (love without God) begins with “my” issues.

- not because they're terrible people — this was me!
- It's because there's a lack of understanding the Ultimate Reality — The reality that we are separated from true life.

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Observation 2:

We ought to Love others.

- In view of God's Love

“Our Love is the Greatest Proof to the World that Jesus is Real.”

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

- The Holy Spirit
- God has achieved his goal of Redemption
- “Our Body is a Temple.” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Observation 3:

The Holy Spirit Transforms us into the image of God.

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

1 John 4:13-16

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 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.

The Gospel Explained:

- **Creation:** All was good, Man in the image of God.
- **Separation:** Man kicked out of the Garden. Separated from God. Split in heaven and earth.
- **The OT:** God Proving Himself to be the Most High
- **Manifestation:** Jesus puts on Flesh and walks the earth
- **Salvation:** Jesus dies on the cross for our sins. Resurrects to offer us life. REDEMPTION
- **Sanctification:** We have now been “set apart” awaiting Jesus’s return. (Holy Spirit)
- **Glorification:** The Day we will be lifted up with the Father - Face to Face.

1 John 4:17

17 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.

John share with us the purpose of writing this letter...

1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

CS Lewis in “The Weight of Glory”

“The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor’s glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken.

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.

All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.”