

“DOES IT EVEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?”

1 John 4:7-21 – Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

1. There is a joy in your heart.

- **Psalm 28:7** – The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

2. There is a declaration of who Jesus is.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:2** – You know how badly we had been treated . . . Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition.

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3. There is a lack of fear.

- **Hebrews 2:14-15** – Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

4. There is a love for others.

- Real love initiates.
- Real love sacrifices.
- Real love endures.

Coming soon:

1. **Christmas at DRC:** Stop by the display on Main Street to check out all the ways you can serve and support Christmas for Our Neighbors. Let’s share the love of Jesus with our community this Christmas season.
2. **DRC Students:** If you are a middle school or high school student, don’t miss all that’s taking place on Wednesday nights from 6–8 pm. Get connected today.
3. **The Life You’ve Always Wanted:** Join us this Wednesday, November 5, at 6:30 pm for the last week of our study on the spiritual disciplines. This week: How can we live in freedom, and how can we have a well-ordered heart?