



## Brotherly Love

### Letters from John // Week 4

Steve Rauch

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#### Overview

Pastor Steve continued our study of 1 John by challenging us to examine how we love our brothers and sisters in Christ. While loving others sounds simple, the reality is that some people are difficult to love. John reminds us that God's love and our love for others cannot be separated. As we acknowledge our need for God and rely on His strength, He gives us everything we need to love others with the same grace and love he has shown us.

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#### Opening Conversation

Growing up, were you the easy sibling or the annoying sibling? Explain.

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#### Scripture & Discussion

##### Read 1 John 4:7-8, 20

- John says that "God is love." How would you describe God's love, and where have you experienced it most clearly in your own life?
- Looking back, how has your ability to love others changed as you've grown in your relationship with Christ?
- Why do you think John connects our love for God so closely to our love for other people? What challenges you most about that truth?

##### Read 1 John 4:13-17

- According to these verses, what gives us the ability and confidence to love others the way God loves us?
- Pastor Steve talked about the importance of acknowledging our weakness and relying on God. What relationship or situation currently requires you to depend on God's help?
- How does knowing that God loves you and lives in you give you confidence to take a step toward someone who may be difficult to love?

**Supporting Scripture:** Psalm 51:3-4, Psalm 73:26

#### Group Application

In your Circle, leave some time to do this exercise. If you can't, encourage your members to make time this week to complete it. Look up the following verses, discuss what specific actions are expected based on the love John talks about in chapter 4, and then note someone who comes to mind.

Passage	Action(s)	Person(s)
John 15:12-13		
Romans 12:9-13		
Romans 13:8-10		
Ephesians 4:1-3		
Hebrews 10:24-25		
Galatians 5:13-15		

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### Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us with a perfect and sacrificial love. Help us acknowledge our need for you, rely on your strength, and walk confidently in your Spirit as we seek to love others well. Show us practical ways to demonstrate your love this week, especially toward those we find difficult to love. Amen.

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### Upcoming Events:

- June 9 – Kids Night Live
- June 16 – XCO Night at Johnson’s Ice Cream, Canal Winchester

### Resources:

- To request prayer: <https://thexchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/13150>
- To meet with a Pastor: <https://thexchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/534644>
- Financial Assistance, Sobriety Resources, grief support, and more: <https://thex.church/care/>

**X Church Podcast:** [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8rUS49IuWYwojA6eKIA\\_VuAO592ZYQgd](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8rUS49IuWYwojA6eKIA_VuAO592ZYQgd)