



God is Love

1 John 4:7-16 NRSV

a. The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis

"[Then] you saw the Singer himself, and then you forgot everything else. It was a Lion. Huge, shaggy, and bright, it stood facing the risen sun. Its mouth was wide open in song."

b. 1 John 4:7-16

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loves us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So, we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

1 John is a Pastoral Essay: A Pastor guiding and guarding against false and harmful teaching (heresy) of the Gospel.

2 John is a letter: A warning to churches not to be hospitable to false teachers.

3 John is a personal note to a man named Gaius requesting hospitality for those sent by the Elder.

The heart of 1 John 4:7-16 is this: God is Love.

What is "Love"?

1. The Love of God is Holy Love (A Love like no other)

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:9-10

"The Word became flesh and lived among us." John 1:14

"We know love by this, that he [Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another." 1 John 3:16

Holy Love is found in Jesus Christ.

When John talks about love, he mentions how Christ dealt with our sin.

"And he is the atoning sacrificing for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

Holy Love deals with **Unholy Sin**.

2. Love is **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**: "God IS love."

John 17: Jesus prays to the Father.

What does the Love of God do?

God's Love heals and cleanses sin and fear.

"If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:6-7

"Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection." 1 John 2:2-5

"Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him." 1 John 3:4-6

"Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them; they cannot sin, because they have been born of God." 1 John 3:9

"We know that those who are born of God do not sin, but the one who was born of God protects them, and the evil one does not touch them." 1 John 5:18

"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." 1 John 4:17-18

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48

"Therefore, let us go toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ." Hebrews 6:1

As Christians, we can reach perfection in love.

John Wesley: "Any voluntary breach of the law of love is sin."

"There is nothing that the purified heart loves that conflicts with the love of God."

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