

THE LOVE OF GOD

I John 4:7-16

The one who truly loves has experienced and expresses the love of God

I. THE LOVE OF GOD EXPECTED (7-8)

A. THE REQUEST (7a)

- Let us love one another

1. The Attitude: A strong suggestion for the beloved but not a demand
2. The Action: Loving never comes naturally, we need regular reminders
3. The Affection: A selfless and sacrificial focus on others

B. THE REASONS (7b-8)

1. Love is God's gift to us
2. Love indicates a relationship with God
3. The unloving are unrelated to God (8a)
4. Love is God's nature (8b)

II. THE LOVE OF GOD EXPERIENCED (9-10)

A. THROUGH THE MISSION OF GOD'S SON (9)

- See Philippians 2:7-8

B. BY INITIATION OF GOD THE FATHER (10a)

- Consider Ephesians 2:1-5

C. WITH PROVISION FOR SINFUL MANKIND (10b)

- Note Isaiah 53:4-6

III. THE LOVE OF GOD EXPRESSED (11-16)

A. THIS IS REASONABLE (11)

1. The Situation: Since God loved us like this (11a)
2. Our Obligation: Love like that (11b)

B. THIS IS REVELATIONAL (12-14)

1. God displayed to all (12)
2. The Spirit dwelling in the believer (13)
3. The Son declared to the world (14)

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C. THIS IS REASSURING (15-16)

1. The Condition of Confession (15)
2. The Condition of Comprehension (16)

CONCLUSION:

Loving others is an expression of God's nature.

- How well do we truly love?