

That You May Know

A Demonstrated Love — 1 John 4:7-12
June 2, 2019

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- 1 John 4:10

I. ALWAYS SINGING THE SAME NOTE

- John returns now for the third time to the test of love (2:7-11; 3:11-18).
- Eight times John refers to love in these six verses. Ten times if you count his favorite term for his readers: “beloved.”

II. LOVE IS:

- from God (vs. 7)
- a sign that one is born of God and knows him (vs. 7)
- an attribute of God (vs. 8)
- the foundation of the incarnation and the indication that God loves his people (vs. 9)
- not shown first by our moving toward God but by God’s moving toward us (vs. 10)
- demonstrated in the propitiation of our sins by the work of Christ on the cross (vs. 10)

Propitiation means: A wrath-removing sacrifice.

- reflexive: God loves us, we love others (vs.11)
- how we “see” God (vs. 12)
- Love is the defining attribute of the genuine follower of Jesus Christ. John’s formula is simple: God loved us, we now have the obligation to love others (1 John 4:19).

KNOW: God is love. He demonstrated that to us ultimately in two ways: By sending his Son to be a propitiation for our sin, and by abiding in us through his Spirit.

DO: Love one another and show God to the world.

Suggested Reading:

Knowing God by J.I. Packer (LifePoint Library #231 PAC)

The Mark of the Christian by Francis Schaeffer (LifePoint Library #248.4)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 4:7-12

1. John is back to talking about love. What has his main point been about love in this letter?
2. Where does love originate according to John?
3. If God is love, does that mean his love trumps all his other attributes?
4. How does God show his love to us primarily? (see verse 10)
5. In what ways can we love others that are similar to the ways in which God has demonstrated his love to us?
6. If no one has ever seen God, how can the Bible tell us that Moses spoke with God as a friend, face to face?
7. What practical step might you take this week to become a person who loves people of Christ better?