

Why Love One Another?

1 John 4:7-16

Love is what defines all of our relationships. Yet people today are so ignorant of what true love is. Genuine love can only come from God through His Word. Scripture affirms that love is at the heart of God's character and that true love can only be defined in relation to God. John gives us four reasons why we should love one another:

1. *Because God is the* _____

Love is one of the best attribute or characters of God. True love can only be defined in relation to God because "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16). God's love is a supernatural love. It is divine, pure, godly and perfect because it comes out of His perfect character (1 John 4:10). God's love is infinite (Eph. 3:18-19) immeasurable (Rom. 11:33; Lam. 3:22-23), boundless (Rom. 8:35-38; 1 Cor. 13:8) and eternal (Jeremiah 31:3).

2. *Because God manifested His love in* _____

God love is a giving love; and it gives the best. He gave His only begotten Son (1 John 4:9; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8) and in giving Jesus, God gave Himself (1 John 4:9-10). The depth of God's love is shown by looking at the undeserving recipients. Christ died for the weak, the ungodly, His enemies.

3. *Because God's love is* _____

God sent His Son that we might have life through Him (1 John 4:9; John 10:10; 17:3). It is that life and light that we received that God uses to show others of His love (1 John 4:12). John is saying is that the unseen God who manifested Himself in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, is also manifested when we love one another (John 13:35).

4. *Because God is* _____

It is important to affirm and embrace the fact that God sent His Son into the world to save sinners because that truth is the basis and the ultimate picture of love. In other words, John is saying because God is love, our love for one another is to reflect the very nature of God. And when that happens, we can rest in the assurance that we abide in God and God abides in us and that we will increasingly love the way God loves (cf. Matt. 5:48; 22:37-40; 2 Cor. 3:18).

God is love! That's the sum of what the Bible says. This is important because the love of God is the basis of all our hopes. It is the object of our deepest longings. It is the source and fulfillment of our faith. John says, "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).