

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:7-21

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

1 John 4:7-21

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



Outstanding debt ?

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (ESV)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. (NIV)

The kind of love we are going to read about is God's "agape" kind of love.

*All you need is love – The Beatles (1967)
Contrast Psalm 52:3*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God,
and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

This is a proper response to love's source and its effect in us

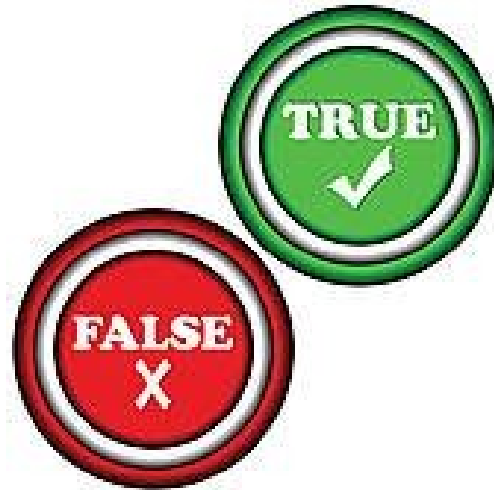
Such a person has a real relationship with GOD



Anyone who does not love does not know God,
because God is love.

The logical implication can be seen in people

It cannot be otherwise since God's nature IS love



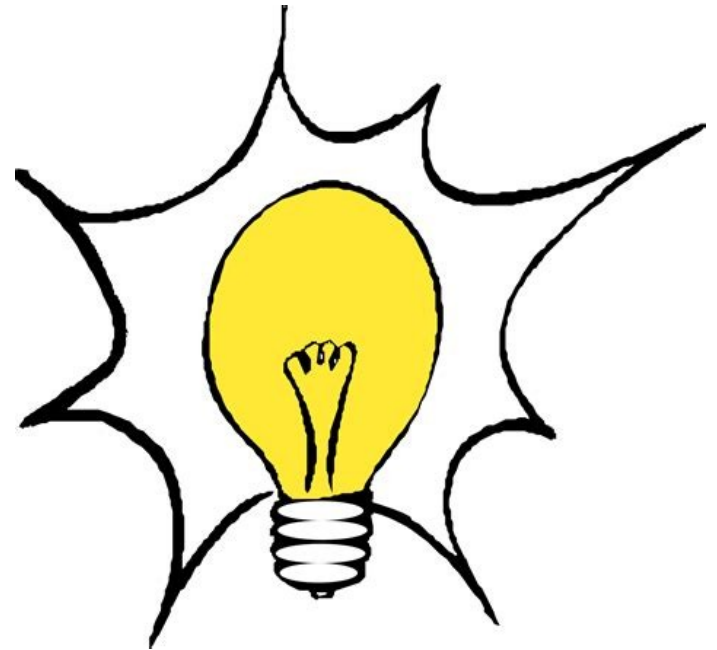
In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.

Love acts! (MANIFESTS)

God's love shown when he:-

- 1 sent his ONLY Son
- 2 into the world
- 3 to give us life (eternal)

Echoes of John 3:16



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.

This is the real description of love

Ours is a response to his.

God's love provides in His Son someone who not only 'covers' our sin but removes it.

It is the removing the sin that caused Jesus to have to bear the wrath of God.



Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

The 'if' is not of uncertainty about God's love but is the same as 'since' /because God **so(in this way)** loved us.

The greater calls for the lesser



(God's love)



(our love for each other)

No one has ever seen God;

Because of God's spiritual nature, physical eyes cannot 'see' God

Jesus in John 14:9 tells us that to 'see' the Father can only be done by 'seeing' him. Jesus makes visible the invisible.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God,

*Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and
the exact imprint of his nature,*

If you want to know what God is like, look at
Jesus.

if we love one another,
God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Although God in his nature is invisible,
through our love his presence and activity is seen

And our experience of his love grows



By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,
because he has given us of his Spirit.

The agent who brings all this about in us
is the Holy Spirit. He gives us assurance
of our relationship with God

He has given us OF his Spirit in contrast
to the presence of the Spirit in Jesus
without limit.



*John 3:34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God,
for he gives the Spirit without measure.*

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son
to be the Saviour of the world.

This is the apostles' witness to the facts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Salvation is sufficient for all people, but is only received by a real trust in what Jesus has done.

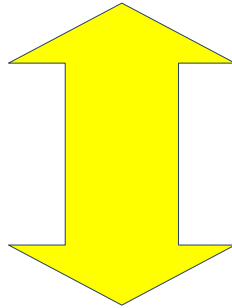


Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,
God abides in him, and he in God.

John makes it clear that this salvation comes through faith in
God's son, Jesus.

What you believe is important – it's the truth.

This salvation is a restored relationship of personal
fellowship with God.



So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

So this is where we stand today

We know – understanding and experience

We believe – faith in action to experience God's love for US



God is love,
and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

John is repeating this profound truth about the nature of God

Love being an aspect of His nature tells us that he is a 'relational God' – this is a demonstration of the Trinity – that relational love exists within the Godhead.

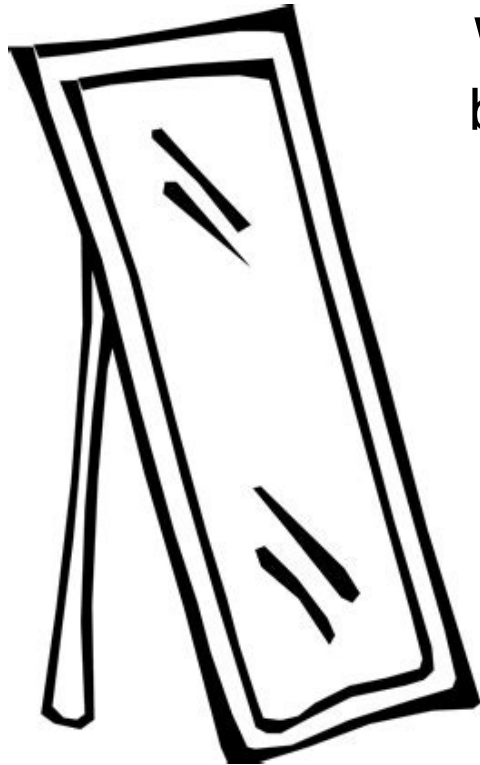
It also gives a reason to understand why God has created and saved us – in order to share in his love.

By this is love perfected with us,
so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,
because as he is so also are we in this world.

God's presence (by this) causes this love to grow in us so
that we can have the assurance of acceptance before
God on the judgement day in the future,



By this is love perfected with us,
so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,
because as he is so also are we in this world.



We can have the assurance of acceptance
before God on judgement day in the future,
because at present we are and live as his
children reflecting his likeness.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

No need to have a fear of rejection
His perfect love for us assures us he is not going
to change his opinion

Romans 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

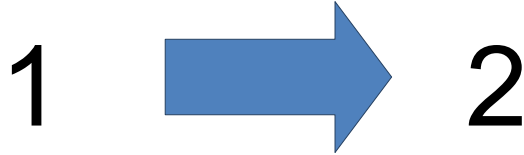
Fear comes from sense of impending judgement

Those not aware of this full salvation will be fearful
Get it clear!

*John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me,
and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*



We love because he first loved us.



Our love for God and others is our response to what he
has done and is doing for us
He loves us!

When did he 'first' love us?
Before time
While we were enemies

There is no place for pride in our love for God or others.

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar;

A practical test of reality...

If someone says 'I love God' (words)
But hates his brother (actions)
Then the two contradict each other.

The actions prove that the words are not true
He is a liar!



He is a liar ...for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

The evidence of love in us humans is firstly to be seen in the physical world – we can see our brothers and sisters.

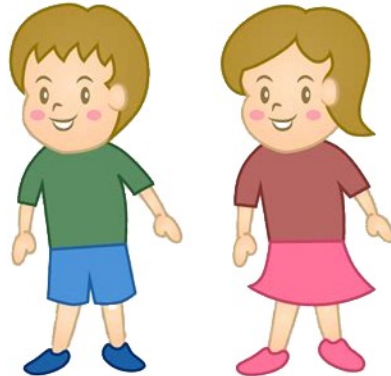
If our love is real there, then we can go on to talk of love for God, since the proof of love for God is seen in its outworking in our love for others.



And this commandment we have from him:
whoever loves God must also love his brother.

The commandment is not an option

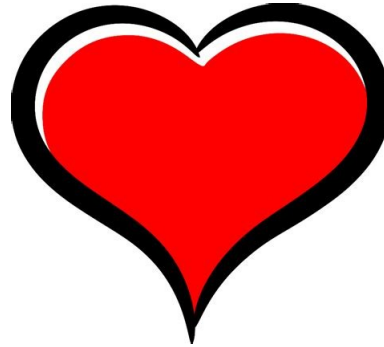
If you have a relationship with the loving God
It has to flow out to those who are God's people.



How can we make our love grow?

Not by our own efforts.

Get to know Jesus better ... and it will grow.



Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ--yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.