

1 John Under the Microscope | Love of God

¹How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:1-3

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:7-21

Read 1 John 3:1-3 and 1 John 4:7-21

📍 Investigate:

Using the passage to the left, do the following to investigate the observable details of the passage:

- Underline references to love.
- Circle all references to the love of God in the passage.
- Put a box around the things we are to do in this passage.

🗨️ Analyze:

Analyze the details to find the meaning of the passage through group discussion:

When you think about the love of God, what means the most to you?

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Why is God's love essential for us to be called children of God?

How does God's love affect our lives both today and in eternity? (v.2-3)

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Why is love a recurring command in Scripture?

What do we learn about the love of God and our love for each other through this passage? (v. 7-11)

How does our love for one another show people who God is? (v. 12)

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What would it look like for God's love to be "made complete" in your life, with your family, friends, and coworkers? (v. 12)

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How is our day-to-day life in Christ reliant on God's love? (v. 16)

What does it look like for you to daily rely on God?

Is it possible for someone to be mature in Christ and not love? What does a loving, maturing Christ follower look like? (v. 16-17)

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How can understanding God's love take the fear out of love both today and in eternity? (v. 18)

What does God's love teach us about how we should love one another? (v. 19-21)

Synthesize:

Synthesize the message of Scripture with life through application.

What is one application that can be pulled from this passage that applies to the life of every Christ follower?

What truth do you need to apply to your life from this passage?

What is one thing in your life right now that is keeping you from loving others like you are supposed to?