

Love is a God Thing

1 John 4:7-11

- I. Love – if we show it – comes from God: How well we love one another reveals our relationship with God (1 John 4:7-8).
- A. Love is a God thing: We cannot really love one another without love that comes from God (4:7a; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 – *Love is not self-seeking*).
- B. Love flows from our relationship to God (4:7b,8).
1. *“Born of God”* – Love reveals our New Nature: When we love it is the result of our new birth (4:7b).
 2. *“Knows God”* – Love reveals our Fellowship with God: When we love or fail to love we reveal how well we know God (4:8).
- II. Love is only learned from God: God showed His love by sending Christ into the world to die for us (1 John 4:9-10).
- A. How God’s was displayed (*Showed*): God sent His only Son into the world to die so that we might live (4:9; Ephesians 1:4-6).
- God’s Salvation Plan**

 - Our Problem – Sin (Romans 3:23-24)
 - Our Penalty – Death/Hell (Romans 6:23)
 - God’s Solution – Love/Christ/The Cross (John 3:16)
 - Our Response – Faith in the Cross alone (John 3:16)
- B. What God’s love accomplished (*This is Love*): Love is why God sent His Son Jesus Christ to be punished for our sin (4:10).
- *Propitiation/Atoning Sacrifice* = God’s righteous wrath upon our sin was satisfied when He punished Jesus on the cross of our guilt (also 1 John 2:2).
- III. God’s Love must become our Love: We must love others because God loved us (1 John 4:11).
- When we understand that God’s love meant Christ’s death, *it is unthinkable not to show love* to others for whom He died.