



LOVE

1 John 4:17-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to **love one another, for love** comes from God. Anyone who **loves is a child of God and knows God.** ⁸ **But anyone who does not love** does not know God, for God is **love.** ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is **real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved** us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to **love each other.** ¹² **No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives** in us, and his **love is brought to full expression in us.** ¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that **we live in him and he in us.** ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they **live** in God.

¹⁶ We know how much God **loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.** **God is love,** and all who **live in love live in God, and God lives in them.** ¹⁷ **And as we live** in God, our **love** grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we **live like Jesus here in this world.** ¹⁸ **Such love** has no fear, because perfect **love** expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect **love.** ¹⁹ **We love** each other because he **loved us first.** ²⁰ **If someone says, “I love God,”** but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't **love people we can see, how can we love** God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who **love** God must also **love** their fellow believers.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

1. Love is **required** of us (vv.7-11)
2. Love has its **origin** in God (v.7)
3. Love is proof of **knowing** God (vv.7,8,16)
4. Love's **standard** is Jesus Christ (vv.9-10)
5. Love requires **sacrifice** without limits (vv.9-10)
6. Love is not **deserved** (v.10)
7. Love **invites** God's presence (v.12)
8. Love **triggers** more love (v.12)
9. Loves presence **dissolves** fear (vv.17,18)
10. Love is the Christian's **reply** (vv.19-21)

GETTING REAL ABOUT LOVE