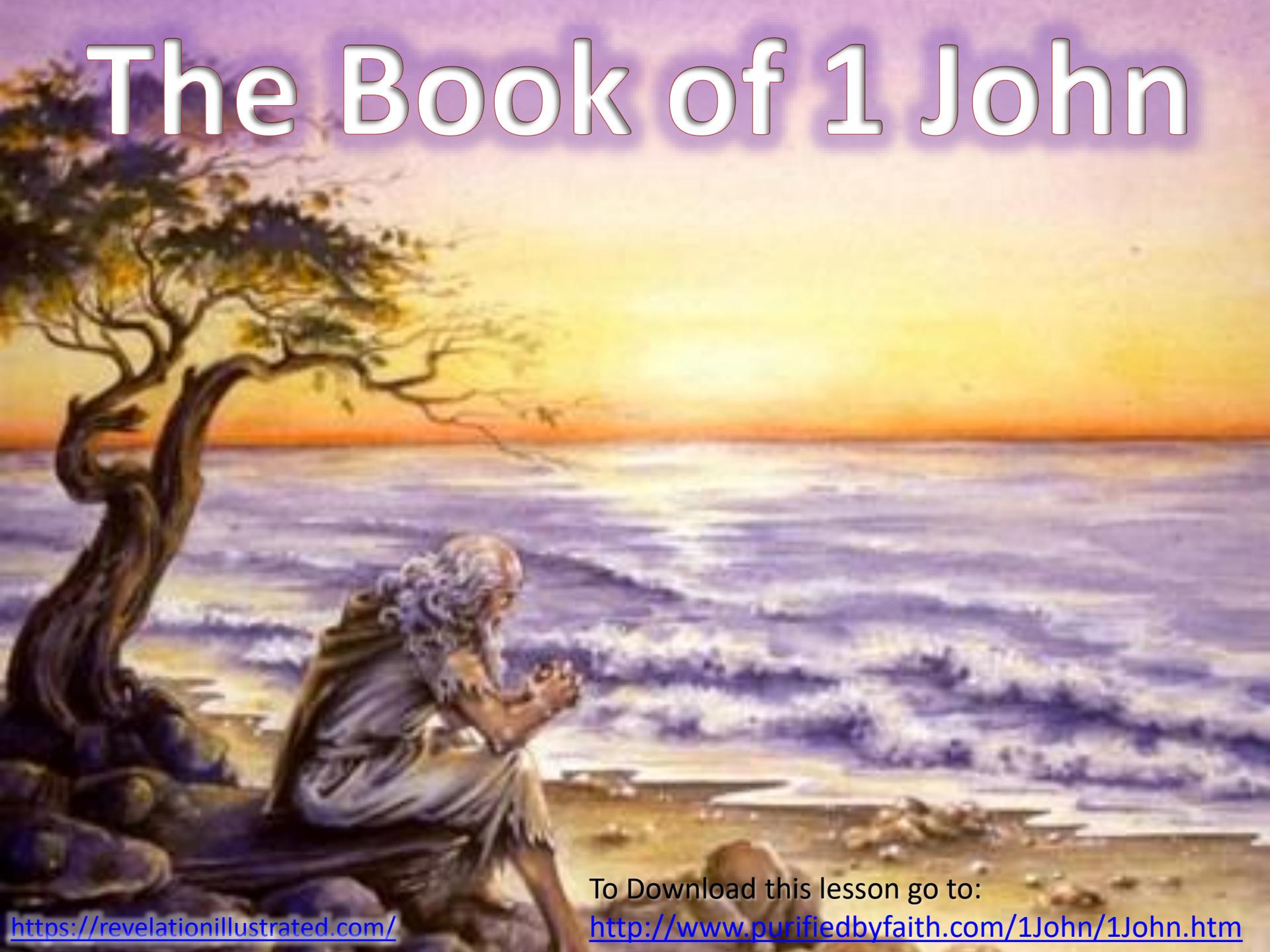


The Book of 1 John



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Outline of 1 John

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- 1:5-2:28 - *The First Presentation of the Three Tests of FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD: RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE and BELIEF in Jesus*
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- 4:7-5:21 - *The Third Presentation of the Three Tests of FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD: RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE and BELIEF in Jesus*

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The **Third** Presentation of the Three Tests of FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD: **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, **LOVE** and **BELIEF** in Jesus

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1 John 4:7-12

The Source of Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

The Source of Love

High Level Overview

True born again believers love one another with a *love that comes from God.*

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

We love one another because:

- God is love (4:8-9)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

We love one another because:

- God is love (4:8-9)
- God loved us (4:10-11)

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1 John 4:7-12

We love one another because:

- God is love (4:8-9)
- God loved us (4:10-11)
- God dwells in us and His love is perfected in us (4:12)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

As we've seen with other commands throughout this letter, “*love*” is a present tense verb which indicates that believers are to **habitually** love one another.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The Greek word (ἀγαπῶμεν – *agapomen*), which is translated here as “*let us love*”, can *also* mean “*we love*” – it’s up to the **translator** to decide which meaning John intended. **Most** translations (like our ESV) have opted to translate this word as “*let us love*”. But I think a good case can be made to translate it as “*we love*”.

⁷ Beloved, *let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

To translate the verb “*let us love*,” would seem to suggest that by loving we’re somehow born of God and come to know God. Actually the sequence is just the **reverse**. It is only those who are born of God and know God that are therefore **able** to love. Therefore I believe the verb here should be translated “*we love*” rather than “*let us love*”.

⁷ *Beloved, we love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The love John describes here is not just a general love that all human beings might have for one another. Instead it is **the** love which is distinctly divine in source and nature – the self-giving love John has set forth throughout this letter as uniquely Christian.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

Taking into account all that has been said so far, Burdick gives the following expanded paraphrase of vs.7a:

Dear friends, we believers are habitually manifesting love to everyone in our fellowship because God enables us to love with spontaneous, self-giving love. (pp.360-361)

⁷ *Beloved, we love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

When we love other believers with this self-giving love, we demonstrate that God has given us a ***new birth*** (“*born of God*”) and that we truly ***know*** God because such love ***comes from*** God (“*love is from God*”).

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

On the other hand, the ***absence*** of self-giving love for fellow believers is evidence that a person does ***not*** know God, because “***God is love.***”

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

God is love...

- *The fact that [“love”] has no article emphasizes **quality** rather than **identity**. Thus it is not the **identity** of God that John is declaring, but His **essential quality**. God in His essence is love.* (Burdick, p.319)
- There are three other statements in scripture concerning what God is in substance and nature:
 - God is “*spirit*” (John 4:24),
 - God is “*light*” (1 John 1:5),
 - God is a “*consuming fire*” (Heb 12:29 from Deut 4:24).

God is love...

- “*God is love*” is repeated twice in this letter (4:8, 16). and is perhaps the most comprehensive and sublime of all biblical affirmations about God’s being.
- The words “*God is love*” don’t just mean that loving is only one of God’s activities but rather *all* of his activity is loving activity and that therefore even if he *judges*, he judges in *love*.
- God who is *love* is *light* and *fire* as well. Far from *condoning* sin, His love found a way to *expose* it (because He is light) and to *consume* it (because He is fire) without *destroying* the sinner, but rather *saving* him.

John moves immediately from the abstract statement “*God is love*”, to the ***manifestation*** of that love through Christ. It is in the ***incarnation*** that the ***true*** nature of God’s love can best be seen.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

When it says that the love of God was “*made manifest*”, it suggests that God’s love had *previously existed*, but at the time of the incarnation it was *manifested* to men. That which had existed eternally was made known in time.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

The manifestation of God's love was not an *internal* experience, "in us," but an *objective historical event* that happened "*among us*".

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

1 John 4:9b – God sent his **only Son into the world**

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

“only” μονογενής *monogenes*

- **NASB:** “*only begotten*”
- Etymologically the term comes from *monos*, “only,” “single” and *genos*, “kind”. Although remotely related to *gennao*, “to bear”, the word *monogenes* is **always** used to speak of **uniqueness** rather than **origin**.
- Moulton and Milligan cite a passage from a third century tablet in which **God** is called *monogene*.
- In 1 Clement 25:2 the term is used to describe a unique bird called the phoenix. “There is a bird called the phoenix. This bird, the **only one of its kind** (*monogenes*), lives five hundred years.”
- In Hebrews 11:17 Isaac is called *monogene*, although he was not the only begotten son of Abraham. He was however unique, one of a kind, since he was the child of promise who came by miraculous birth.

“only” μονογενής *monogenes*

- In the Old Testament, *monogenes* often translates a Hebrew word that means “only, solitary, only one”.
- The same Hebrew term is, on other occasions, translated as “*beloved*”.
- Joseph Bonsirven, a New Testament exegete and Rabbinic scholar, says that this untranslatable word carries the ideas of unique Son of God, His beloved, and One who is equal to God.
- The NASB is one of the very few modern versions that still has “*only begotten*”.
 - “*Only Son*” is found in TEV, RSV, NEB, Phillips, Williams, Beck, and Montgomery.
 - The NIV has “*one and only Son*” with a footnote, “Or his only begotten Son”

The word “*world*” refers here to the place where people live. God sent Christ to live among us on this earth and there to accomplish the work assigned to Him.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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. ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The clause translated “*that we might live through Him*” expresses the ***purpose*** for which God sent His Son. It was that He might give spiritual life to people who were dead in their trespasses and sin.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The “*love*” mentioned here is the same distinctive Christian love spoken of earlier.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

John first states what this distinctive love is **not** – it does **not** originate with man. A few verses later, John puts it like this:

- 1 John 4:19 - **We love because He first loved us.**

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

It is not in the ***Christian's*** love for ***God*** that we see what genuine love really is; on the ***contrary*** genuine love is seen in ***God*** sending his Son for ***us***.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

Not only did God manifest His love in the *sending* of His Son, but in the *mission* the Son came to fulfill, namely the mission of “*propitiation*”. His love provided the legal basis on which forgiveness could be offered.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

(review) “*propitiation*” - ἵλασμός (*hilasmus*)

- The Greek word translated “*propitiation*” here is found only **two** times in the New Testament – here and in 1 John 2:2.
- **Lexical Definitions:**
 - **Louw-Nida** – *the means by which sins are forgiven*
 - **Liddell-Scott** – *a means of appeasing*
 - **Friberg** – *the means of forgiveness, way of reconciling*
- **Note in NIV Study Bible:** “*God’s holiness demands punishment for man’s sin. God, therefore, out of love (4:10; John 3:16), sent His Son to make substitutionary atonement for the believer’s sin. In this way the Father’s wrath is propitiated (satisfied, appeased); his wrath against the Christian’s sin has been turned away and directed towards Christ.*”

The Greek adverb translated “*so*” is a pointed reference to verses 9-10, especially to the two facts of ***incarnation*** and ***propitiation***. Although the adverb “*so*” could refer to ***extent*** or ***manner***, it would seem that ***extent*** is the most natural way to take the word: God loved us even to the point of providing the means of propitiating His own righteous wrath against our sin – thus setting the example of the extent we must be willing to go in loving one another.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The word “*God*” appears without an article and therefore refers to God in His *essence or deity*. In addition, the negative “*no one*” is a strong denial excluding everyone.

The statement, then, might be put as follows: “*God in His essential being no one at any time has seen.*”

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

No one has ever seen God...

What about those who seem to **have** seen God?

- **Exodus 33:22-23** – *...and while my [God's] glory passes by I will put you [Moses] in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.*
- **Judges 13:20-22** – *And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God.”*
- **Isaiah 6:1,5** – *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple... And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”*

No one has ever seen God...

What about those who seem to **have** seen God?

- In 1 John 4:12, the word God appears without an article and thus refers to God in His **essence or deity**.
- Since God is Spirit (John 4:24), physical eyes cannot see Him (1Tim 1:17; 6:16), certainly not His essential nature, God as God.
 - **John 4:24** – *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*
 - **1 Timothy 1:17** – *To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*
 - **1 Timothy 6:16** – *[God] who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, **whom no one has ever seen or can see.** To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*
- The Old Testament theophanies were revelations of God in human disguise; they were not visions of God in His essence (which is what is indicated in 1 John 4:12).

This striking denial is made all the more striking by its abrupt insertion, seemingly with no connection to what goes before or comes after. (Burdick, p.325)

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God **so** loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The purpose and function of this statement must be discerned from the context. . . On one hand, no one has ever seen God; on the other hand God indwells those who love one another. In some sense, loving one another must replace seeing God in His essential being. (Burdick, p.325)

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

Putting together what we observe in the context, we can conclude that what John is saying is this:

- Although God cannot be seen in His essence, since He is love (v. 8), He can be seen *indirectly* in His people when they love one another.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

*Here, to our astonishment and confusion . . . the unseen God who was once revealed in **His Son** [John 1:18], is now revealed in **His people** . . . when they love one another.*
(Stott, p. 164)

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God **so** loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

The conditional clause “*if we love one another*”, is not the **condition** or **means** of God’s indwelling; it is the **evidence** that God lives in us.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God **so** loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

God's love comes to its intended goal in us when it reaches out through us and treats another brother lovingly. To put it in other words, the circuit of God's love is completed when we love one another.

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* ⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *Beloved, if God **so** loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹² *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:7-12

Class Discussion Time



***Class Discussion Time**

- Do you find comfort in the fact that the seemingly impossible requirement of having a self- sacrificing love for other believers is not something that we have “work up” within ourselves, but something that is given to us by God?
- What does the love that we are to have for other believers look like? Can you give specific examples from your own experience?
- Assuming the commentaries are right about the connection between God whom no one has ever seen and our love for one another – Have you ever thought about the fact that your love for other believers is a way of witnessing to and revealing the unseen God to the unbelieving world?