

God's love made tangible

1 John 4:7-21

Gladly giving for the good of others

John the Apostle

Gospel of John: "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" who gives life

Some people left the Church / false teaching

John's follow-up letter (1 John)

Jesus truly was God in the flesh

And this must shape how we live

1 John 4:7-21



1 John 4:16

The Big Idea

Where God is, love is

Love:

Gladly giving oneself for the good of another

God continually gladly gives himself to people and seeks their benefit

If you are in Christ: God continually gladly gives himself to **you** and seeks **your** benefit

What should we do?

Know and rely on God's love for us

Past:

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Future:

No fear

Anticipate eternal pleasures created by God

Present:

Confidence: birds and grass Matthew 6:25-34

Exercise this trust every day

Jesus

"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:23

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. As you read 1 John 4:7-21, what does it say about God?
2. And what does it say about people who claim to know God?
3. In 1 John 4:16, John says, "We know and rely on the love God has for us." What does that mean? How can we come to know and rely on God's love for us?
4. **Past:** How has God shown His love in the past to all Christians? How has He shown His love to you?
5. **Future:** John says that, if we are in God, we should have no fear of punishment (see verses 17-18), which certainly includes our anticipation of appearing before the throne of God in the final judgment. Rather than fear, what should we anticipate? For example, see Psalm 16:9-11.
6. **Present:** Read Matthew 6:25-34. What might it look like to live life with the settled confidence that God will feed and clothe us? If He will feed and clothe us, how should we think about our other needs?
7. What could we do to keep growing in our confidence in God's love?
8. How should knowing and relying on God's love for us empower us to love others?
9. **Digging Deeper:** Read Psalm 131. What is the point of the psalm? What is the psalmist's contrast between "things too wonderful for me" and the contentment of a child with its mother? How can we grow in that contentment?

Conversation starters

What is love? Where does love come from?