Continuum of Attitudes

Strongly against	A little against	Neutral	A little for	Strongly for

1

Because God loves…

A mature disciple
loves with God's love

1 John 4:7-21 ref.ly/1Jn4;niv

2

1 John 4:1-6

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

3

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

- Test what people believe and teach
- Truth matters
- To deny that Jesus is God's Son is the antichrist

4

1 John 4:7-21

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

5

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in
us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen
and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the
Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that
Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in
God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has
for us.

6

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and
God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete
among us so that we will have confidence on the day
of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There
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.

7

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims
to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For
whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom
they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not
seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone
who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

8

The Big Idea

Because God is love

His people MUST love

especially each other

9

Love

Not hating or harming is not enough!

- "whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen" 1 John 4:20
- The command is not "don't harm your neighbor"
- "Love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:21

10

Love

Genuinely wanting God's best blessings for the other person

Genuinely asking: Is there something God is prompting me to give/do/sacrifice for their sake?

Doing what God prompts

While discerning the spirits…

11

The Big Idea

Because God is love

His people MUST love

especially each other

12

Continuum of Attitudes

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13

What should we do?

Genuinely want God's best blessing for them

- Forgive = release from personal vengeance and want God's blessing for them
- Pray honestly
- Know His love and forgiveness personally

- "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" Matthew 5:44

14

What should we do?

Love with God's love (1 Corinthians 13)

- Don't keep a record of wrongs
- Never delight in evil or reports of evil
- Always protect, trust, hope, persevere
- "Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (verse 11) is both logic and means
- "We know and rely on the love God has for us" (verse 16) is both comfort and means
- "He has given us His Spirit" (verse 13) is both assurance and means

15

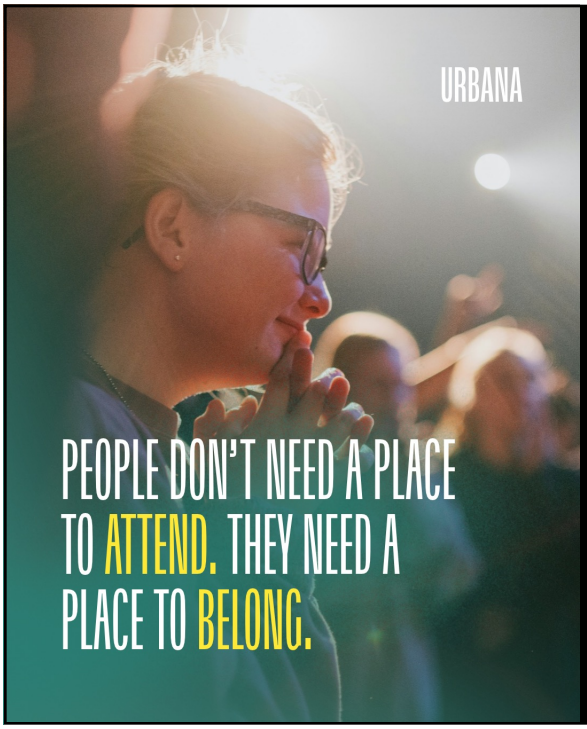
What should we do?

Ask God:

Is there an action you are asking me to do?

- Concretely: a "brother and sister" in Christ

16



What does it mean to belong?

What can we do to help people belong?

What can I do to help someone belong?

17

What should we do?

Ask God:

Is there an action you are asking me to do?

- Get to know someone …more than the superficial
- Listen with genuine empathy
- Open my heart and my space
- What do I have or am I able to do that would bring good to them?

18

	Christians	Non-Christians
Friends		
Relatives		
Acquaintances		
Neighbors		
Colleagues		
Enemies		
Strangers		

LOVE!

19

The Big Idea

Because God is love

His people MUST love

especially each other

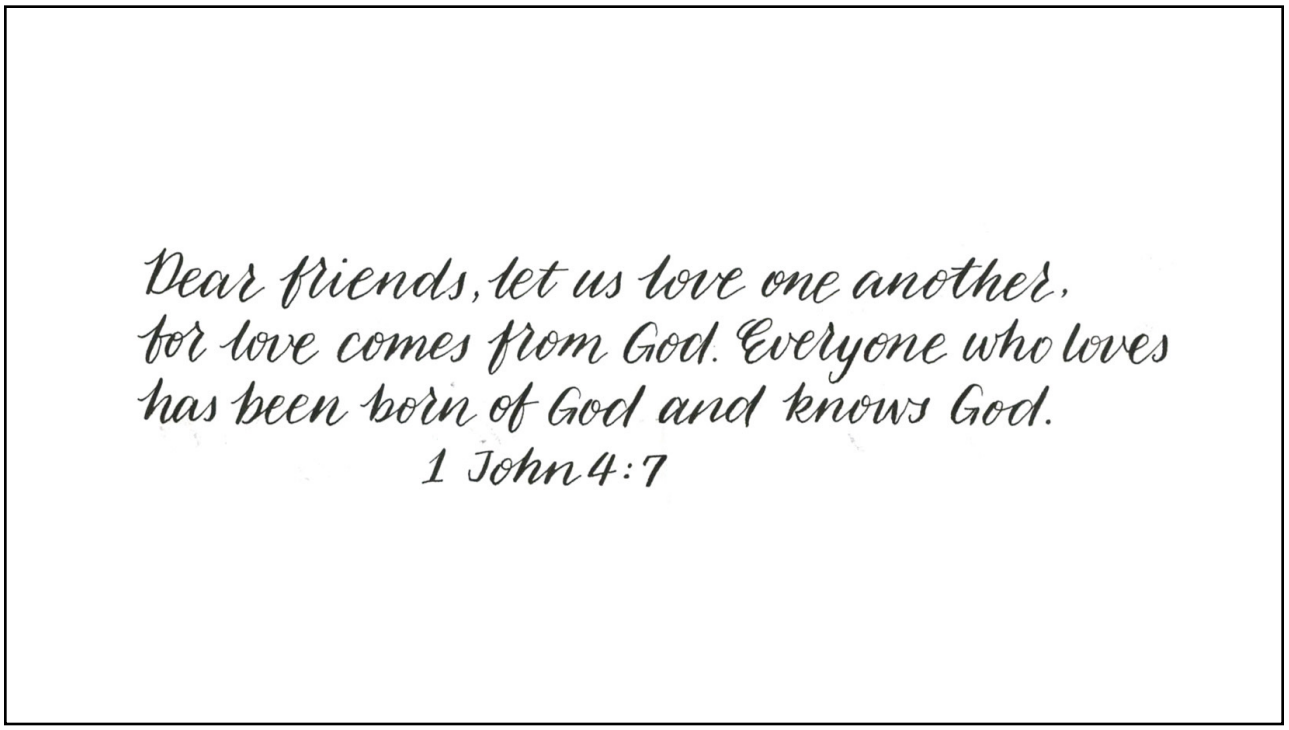
"Love people closer to Jesus"

20

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:10-11

21



22