

1John 4:7–11

True Love's Source, Standard, and Seal

**Thursday, May 23, 2024 • Read 1John 4:7–11**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle call them (v7)? What does he urge them to do? From where does love come? By whom have those who love been begotten? Whom do they know? What is not true about someone who does not love (v8)? Why not? What has God done with His love (v9)? In what way has He manifested it? What is unique about this Son? Into what has He sent Him? For what purpose? What didn't we do (v10)? But what did God do for people who didn't? What did He send His Son to be? What does the apostle call them again in v11? What does he say (again!) we ought to do? Upon what basis?*

**Why must Christians love one another?** 1John 4:7–11 prepares us for the second serial reading in public worship on the Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christians must love one another because God reveals Himself in loving us and reveals who His children are by their loving with that love.**

**Love is of God,** v7–8. God is love. All that love is, God is. It is such an essential characteristic of His that failing to love is proof that we don't have any real relation to Him (v8). This is what the new birth produces in a believer: love for God as someone who knows Him, and love for those who are His. For many, one of the first symptoms of their conversion is their newfound, profound love for believers.

**God's love manifested,** v9. The doctrine of God the Son being begotten of God from all eternity has been an important, essential doctrine throughout this letter. But it is a doctrine that is important for more, even, than just knowing the truth about God. It is a doctrine that essential for knowing His love. How very many ways God has displayed His love toward us! But all of them together are not to be compared to His sending His Son into the world.

**God's love initiates,** v10. Whom does God love with His saving love? This verse has a surprising answer: those who did not love Him but sinned against Him. Those who sinned against Him. And how much did He love those who sinned against Him? So much that He gave Himself to be the propitiation; He gave Himself to suffer His own wrath in their place. We never begin to love God except by His redeeming love toward us, first in His Son, and then by His Spirit.

**God's love propagates,** v11. The logic in this verse works two ways. The first is that the one who has been loved ought therefore to love others. The second is that if we see someone else upon whom God has set His electing, redeeming love, then they must become objects of our special love for God.

When you think about how you relate to others, what evidence is there that you have been born of God? How has God shown His love for you? What part did your loving Him have in this?

*Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for how we have valued loving too little, when loving is the chief fruit of being born of You and knowing You. Forgive us for forgetting that You have loved us and given Christ for us, when we did not love You and only sinned against You. We thank You that You have given Yourself in Your Son to endure Your own wrath in our place. Grant that through Him who has atoned for us, we would also love You and one another, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs:** ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH427 "I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew"

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

First John chapter 4 verses 7 through 11. These are God's words. Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God. And everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love, does not know, God for God is love. And this the love of God was manifested toward us.

That God has sent his only begotten son into the world. That we might live through him. And this is love not that, we loved God but that he loved us. And sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved of God. So loved us. We also ought to love one another.

So, for the reading of God's word, We've heard so far that. Loving one. Another is one of the truths or one of the tests. For seeing, if we are truly Believers. Because a Believer is not. An idea that is produced by man. A Believer. A Christian is a reality.

Salvation is real. The Lord's saving is real. And so, what he does. In Those whom he saves Israel and is marked by it, especially produces. Obedience to his Commandments like we've seen and especially producers acknowledgment of the Lord. Jesus as God himself, the Eternal son, the only begotten son.

Who genuinely became flesh. To save us. And it especially produces love. For the Brethren, love for other believers. And, The five verses before us today. Trace this back into the character and the nature of God himself. And so the Commandments repeated here verse 7. Beloved let us love one another.

And then it finds its source or its origin. In God himself. For love is of God. And everyone who loves is born of God. And knows, God, he who does not love. Does not know God for God is. Love lovers of God because God is Triune. God is. Uh, one God one substance.

God is one and there is no other. But from all eternity, this one God exists in three persons. These three persons sharing. One substance, they're not three Gods. But there is the interaction within the godhead between the father And the son who proceeds from the who is begotten of the father, rather, and the spirit who proceeds from the father and the son.

Now, what it is to be begotten and to proceed, we have Difficult time. Attaining to, with our minds understanding with our minds. But we know that these must be the best words for describing it because this is these are the words that God has given us. And what we find is that the father and the Son and the spirit From all eternity.

Existed in this Mutual adoration and enjoyment and devotion. Uh, this Fellowship of the godhead, this love each for the others. And so, Uh, how love comes to exist? Um Among Us is from love which eternally exists in God. Love among the creatures, then. Analogous to patterned after. A creation from to show the the character of the Living God love is of God.

It was an amazing thing. That everything that love is God is, and that he has been like this From all eternity. So that when we receive the new birth, when we receive a birth from God, Which, Again, it's not the same as the way that the sun is eternally, begotten of God.

But there is A begetting, a birth a fathering. Of us in how he gives us new life in his son by his Spirit. That is patterned after that is an expression of in a creaturely way. That begetting of the Sun by the father that exists in God in a Divine way, in a way that is inaccessible to us.

And so the Lord Jesus is the son of his love, the Lord. Jesus is the expression of his love and we too if we are children. Will be marked, especially by The way that we love. Loving God. And God the father and the son. To whom we are united in the spirit.

Who is with us and dwells in us and is the one who gives us life from God. And then loving one another. Especially, because we are united to one another. So, Love is of God, which means That everyone who has this birth from God. Everyone who has this fellowship with God.

Um, must necessarily love in fact, that's the only way we can come genuinely to love. Everyone who loves is born of God and and knows God. But he who does not love. Does not know. God has no. Relation to God. For God is love. So that's the first point here, that love is of God.

The second point, then. That we see in verse 9 is that God has displayed or revealed or as we have the word here in our English translation or English version Love is Manifested. And this the love of God was Manifested towards us. That God sent his only begotten son.

Into the world that we might live through him. And so the great display of God's love. There's the display of his son. And especially, Uh, his son's offering. Himself for us. So that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins in verse 10.

Propitiation meaning, the one who suffers all of the wrath of God. So that God, instead of being full of Wrath towards us on account of whom who we are, would be full of favor towards us. On account of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done, he took all the Wrath away.

He suffered the fullness of all the Wrath that was due to our sin. So that we might be seen in Christ. And have God's favor towards us and this is the great display. Then of God's love. God gives us many good things in his love. But all of the things that he has made, all of the things that he has given us, all of the things that he will give us for unending ages taken all together.

Are still not even worth comparing. To his only begotten son. Who is God himself? And who has been the son of his love? The Beloved From Everlasting to Everlasting within the godhead. And this is the one whom God has given. And he gave him. In order that he might die for Sinners.

So this is the one whom God has given and this is the reason. That God has given him and this is the great Revelation of the love of God. The great Revelation of the love of God, is not in how beautiful the flowers are and how he makes all things.

Um to work out for our good and all those are all great. Greater than we can imagine. But none of them are Worth comparing. None of them are a candle's worth of love next to the full sun. Of the love of giving God, the son s-o-n. To be the propitiation for our sins.

So yes, lovers of God and we have a difficult time understanding it, but we know the great way. Not we we don't even just say the greatest way because it is so by itself where you could just call it the great way. That God has shown his love. Is by giving his Uh, and part of this, then is not just that God's love is manifested or revealed.

But to whom we already noted in whom the son and how by his being a propitiation. Uh, but especially by his being propitiation for those who did not love God. Verse 10 and this is love not. That we loved God. And the point there is not that, Um we loved God, a little bit, but his love was so much better.

That really to see love, we look at how he loved us. Not that we loved him. No, the point there is that we did not love him. And so God is the one in whom is law of God is the one who reveals his love. God is the one who loves and who loved has loved continues to love.

Uh, who has loved those who did not love him. It is his love which produces love in us will find when we get to verse 19. But God's love. Therefore must initiate because there's no love from or in anyone else, except from him. I mean, some people call this reformed theology or calvinistic theology, well, that's true.

If your theology has been deformed, it needs to be reformed and Uh, if a man named Calvin was Faithful, explainer and teacher, and employer of of God's word, then he would teach this. Because this isn't just reformed or calvinistic theology. This is God's theology. This is actual theology. The study of and explanation of God himself.

Because he must initiate. Which means we are not the ones. Who initiate? We are not the ones. Who choose him from something in us. The way that we come to choose him. Is because he loves. And he chooses. And his love produces. Our love, his Choice, produces our choice as life, produces our life.

God must initiate. And he does. And this is love not that. We loved God. We didn't. And yet, he loved us. And he gave himself in his son. Not just to us, but even for us. That he might suffer the wrath of God in our place. And so now, having shown the origins, Of Christian love.

As Divine love itself. That God himself and his love are the origins of our love he repeats the command, right? Remember, in verse 7, it began the command beloved. Let us love one another And now he repeats it based on grounded upon these Origins that he has described beloved if God, so loved us, We also ought to love one another.

And there are at least two ways. Uh in which the logic of that works. The first is since God is the source of all love. And since God has so loved us, we ought to respond. Um, to him. By loving him. And loving those who are his And so there's the response.

Uh, the way that the logic works, but there's also the origin way. If the love with which we love comes from God. Then aren't we not will, won't it not? Will it not? Express Itself by loving Those whom God loves. So, if The love that is in Believers originated with God.

And one of the great displays of God's love is his love for believers. Then won't this be one of the distinguishing characteristics of your love? If it's really love that is from God. That it especially expresses itself on Believers. Because that's where God's love especially expresses itself. And so it's like a a mark of authenticity.

How do I know? That my love is not just responding to God's love. But as its origin in God's love. What is the the DNA or to change the? Um, Uh the illustration, the spectrography of God's love you. You test to see if the love that's coming out of you is divine.

Love well. It expresses itself especially towards and upon Believers towards and upon Christians. Because that's what God's love does. And that's what our love should do. And this is why the Apostle. Right in under the inspiration of the. Holy spirit is so very urgent. With his Brethren, his beloved tomb, he is writing That they also would love one another.

And the Lord give us. So to love one another. Not just because we're a family, And not just because, Each of you. Delightful people. All of your particular qualities that God has given you. Not just because we're enjoying, This wonderful life with the Lord. And with one another, But may the Lord give you to love one another because the love with which you love is his own.

And so it's especially bent upon those. Whom he has loved from all eternity. Let's pray.

Thank you. Father, for giving us. Such. A clear and forceful description. Of how love is in and from you, and Therefore demonstrates, whether we are yours and How to identify whether the love that is in us, is genuinely from you. And yet Lord, we need your help. Because even the things that we have Talked about and observed from this scripture.

Beyond our capacity and our comprehension. And so, please keep helping us by your spirit and produce in Your own love your own, love for your son, your own love for yourself. And Your own love. One another. The adopted children of your love, in the Lord, Jesus the son of your love.

So, please help us by your spirit. Grant that he would not only pour out your love in our hearts. But also that he would. Produce in us that fruit of His life and his work upon us and in us, Which begins with love. For, we ask it in Jesus name.

Amen.