

## SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

### Lesson #10: “Understanding True Love”

1 John 4:7-21

Announcements and opening prayer.



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Imagine you were on the Titanic when it hit the iceberg. There are all types of people on board. There are the arrogant, the hired help, the aristocrats, the musicians, the crew, probably some nice and really not nice people. As the boat is sinking, you hear this voice in your head saying, “What would Jesus do?” Describe the priorities you would begin to make. What would you do and for whom?

**Transition:** Every day is filled with opportunities to be the body of Christ or to refuse to be His body. The one born of the Spirit of God loves to love people.

**The Bottom Line:** Today’s truth is simply that true love comes only from God.

#### LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

**Question:** If your dad told you to do something 10 times in a few minutes, what would you think?

*Don’t read it, but I want everyone to skim chapter 4:7-21 and count the number of times the word love is used in some form. Feel free to underline them. That’s what Bibles are for! **Answer:** In 15 verses John uses some form of the word “love” 27 times. What does that say? It says this is the focal point of this teaching and it is dead serious and needs our close attention.*

#### Read 1 John 4:7-8

*The statement, “Dear friends, let us love one another...” is interesting. The Greek grammar points out that this is an encouragement because the tense shows that it is highly probable that this will take place. He’s not picking at them but John is exhorting them, pumping them up. This is John the cheer-leader. So, even though he uses the word love 27 times, it more like he is saying, “This is great, really great, really, really great!”*

1. Where does that kind of love come from? It’s not natural for us to sacrificially love everybody.



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2. What if someone refuses or is just unable to give love unselfishly to others?
- ⑥ What are some examples of unselfish divine love you see taking place among Christians?
3. How does Jesus statement from Matthew 25 about the least of these relate to what John is teaching us?



**Interactive Teaching Ideas:** ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: *(Be sure to allow plenty of time for this exercise)* **Write on the board: GOD IS LOVE.** Ask the class to discuss at teach table how they would explain that to a non-believer.

**Read 1 John 4:9-12**

4. How did God explain true love to us?
5. How could living a life a love cause a Christian to become arrogant?
6. How does God's love in Christ keep us from becoming conceited as we love others deeply and sacrificially?
7. How is God's love made complete in us?

**Read 1 John 4:13-18**

8. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our ability to love others?

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🕒 Can you think of an example of the Holy Spirit making godly love possible when it seemed impossible?

9. I want confidence that when the Day of Judgment comes, I will stand before my Jesus excited and unashamed. How does John tell us we can achieve that?

10. What does the teaching tell us if we are afraid of Jesus' return or when we stand before Him after this life is over?

**Read 1 John 4:19-21**

🕒 How would you sum up these last 3 verses? Put them into a sentence.



**Going Deeper/Homework:**

**Memory Verse:** "He (*Jesus*) will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me'" (Matthew 25:45)