

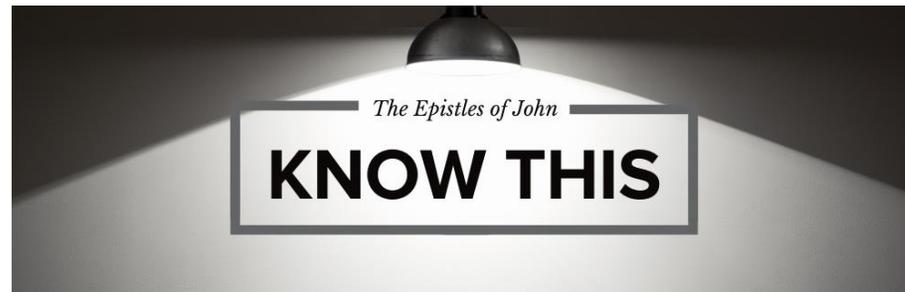


Pray

How does 1 John 4:7-16 inspire you to pray? Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



What's love got to do with it? | 1 John 4:7-16

Study Guide 12 for sermon on 3/21/2021



Introduction

People talk about love like it's an easy thing to do. "Just love people!" Easy to say... hard to do.

1 John 4:7-16 agrees with the requirement to love each other, but anchors that love in the gospel. Christian love is received (from God, through Christ, by the indwelling Holy Spirit) before it is given to others.



Overview

Context: 1 John 4:7-16 begins the home-stretch of the book, driving home the unifying message to love one another, as God has loved us through Christ Jesus.

Structure:

- I. Command: love one another (vv. 7-8)
- II. Cause: God's love for us through Christ (vv. 9-10)
- III. Effect: Our love for one another (vv. 11-17)



Engage

1. What is the primary reason John says we should love one another (v. 7)?
2. Does verse 8 imply that salvation is by works (loving others)? Why/why not?
3. Verses 9-10 make it clear that love comes from God, through Jesus Christ. How would you explain the connection between God's love and the gospel to a non-Christian friend who asked?
4. Verses 7 and 9 both say we are "born of God" or "live through him." What does this mean?
5. Jesus is called our "atoning sacrifice" in verse 10. Think back to the OT sacrificial system, where animals were offered as atoning sacrifices, then read John 1:29. What's the significance of this connection?
6. Christians are required to love one another as Christ has loved them. Read verse 11 and John 13:34-35 and discuss how Christian love for one another finds a different source from worldly love for one another.
7. Verse 14 makes a strong statement that "The one who does not love remains in death." Combine this with Matthew 5:46 and discuss the implications this carries for the ways we treat those who are different from us?
8. Verses 12-16 make an argument that Christian love is anchored in Christ. Put this in your own words.
9. We know that we are saved by faith alone and our good works don't contribute to our salvation. And yet, verses like this remind us that works are a necessary evidence. Why is this such a hard teaching for us to embrace?
10. Is there someone you've been avoiding, harboring resentment against, or withholding forgiveness from? Pray for the Lord to turn your heart towards love for that person and make a step towards reconciliation this week.