

The Love Of God And The Love Of The World

1 John 4:7-12 and 1 John 2:15-17

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In today's culture, there is a lot of talk about love, both what love is and what it isn't. In John's first epistle, we are reminded about how God defines love. In addition, we find that the object of a person's love shows a lot about the state of a person's heart. Godly love comes from one source alone – God himself.



Read 1 John 4:7-12 (NET)

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God. ⁸ The person who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Read 1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, ¹⁶ because all that is in the world (the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance produced by material possessions) is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away with all its desires, but the person who does the will of God remains forever.

EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What revealed when a person's life is characterized by love towards fellow believers? (4:7)

9. How did God show His love for us? (4:9)

10. a. Why do you think that John mentions that no one has seen God (4:12)?

b. Why is this important to the point that John is trying to make?

11. How would you define the term “world” here in the book of 1st John?

12. What sort of things are in the world (2:15)?

13. How long will the things of the world last as compared to the things of God (2:17)?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. How does the nature of God’s love for us in Jesus (4:10) demonstrate how we should love one another?

15. How does the love of the world tempt us, even as Christians? Be specific with examples!

16. Is it possible for someone to both love God and the world, according to this passage? Why or why not?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES