



This Is Love
1 John 4:1-21

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Melbourne Community Church
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A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned at the top of the slide. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of paper. The text is overlaid on the image.

What will we learn?

- ❖ God defines love.
- ❖ God's love was shown at the cross of Christ.
- ❖ We are called to generous, sacrificial, compassionate love, like God's love.

Tools for epistles:

- ❖ Read it through in one setting.
- ❖ Remember that it's someone else's mail.
- ❖ Look for the occasion.

1 John 1

- ❖ We apostles proclaim what we have witnessed.
- ❖ Light vs. darkness
- ❖ Love vs. hate

1 John 2

- ❖ Because you know Jesus ...
 - ❖ Your sins have been forgiven.
 - ❖ You have overcome the evil one.
 - ❖ Eternal life is your reward.
- ❖ There is a cosmic rivalry ...
 - ❖ Between the world and the kingdom of God.
 - ❖ Between lies and truth.

1 John 3

- ❖ If we are abiding in Jesus ...
 - ❖ We will do right.
 - ❖ We will love others.
- ❖ If we are abiding in Jesus ...
 - ❖ We can be confident about his return.
 - ❖ We can be confident in prayer.

Abiding/remaining in Jesus =

- ❖ Loving others (2:10)
- ❖ Doing the will of God (2:17)
- ❖ Honoring what was heard from the beginning (2:24)
- ❖ Receiving God's anointing (2:37)
- ❖ Keeping "his commands" (3:24)

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1 John 4:1

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.

Beware of false prophets:

- ❖ Jesus (Matthew 7:15)
- ❖ Paul (Acts 20:28-30)
- ❖ Peter (2 Peter 1:1)

1 John 4:2-3

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,
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.



Secessionists?

- ❖ Gnosticism
- ❖ Antinomianism
- ❖ Docetism

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

1 John 4:4

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.

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2 Kings 6:16

**“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered.
“Those who are with us are more than those
who are with them.”**

2 Chronicles 32:7

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him.

2 Chronicles 32:8

“With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

1 John 4:5-6

They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 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.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

Karen H. Jobes:

“The adjudicator of truth about God now is the same as it was for them — the apostolic witness, but now it has been inscripturated in the New Testament ... No believer can claim to outgrow the need of atonement and think they are being led to do so by the Holy Spirit.”

1 John 4:7-8

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned horizontally across the upper half of the image. The background is a textured, light-colored surface, possibly a book cover or a piece of paper, with a subtle pattern. The text is overlaid on the image.

1 John 4:9

**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.**

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

Karen H. Jobes:

“God himself was willing to be sacrificed on the cross, to experience human life and death; such is his love for us. Therefore, God’s love is not contingent on the circumstances of our lives.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

Karen H. Jobes:

“Good things may happen; bad things may happen; but God’s constant eternal love remains unchanged because of the cross, which stands unchangeable throughout all of human history.”

A pair of glasses with a textured, brownish background. The text "one and only Son" is written in a white, serif font across the lenses. A red horizontal line is positioned below the text.

"one and only Son"

- ❖ John 1:14
- ❖ John 1:18
- ❖ John 3:16
- ❖ John 3:18

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John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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John 1:18

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned on a light-colored, textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

John 3:18

Whoever believes in him is not condemned,
but whoever does not believe stands
condemned already because they have
not believed in the name of God's
one and only Son.

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1 John 4:10

**This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

1 John 4:11-12

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Commanded to love:

- ❖ Jesus: “your enemies”
(Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27, 35)
- ❖ Paul: “your wives”
(Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19)
- ❖ Peter: “one another”
(1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 2:17)
- ❖ John: “one another” (all over this letter)

Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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Imitators of God

- ❖ Holiness
(Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:15)
- ❖ Mercy (Luke 6:36)
- ❖ Love (1 John 4:10-11)

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1 John 4:13-14

This is how we know that we live in him
and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.
And we have seen and testify that the Father
has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

A pair of glasses with a wooden frame and clear lenses is resting on a piece of lined paper. The text is overlaid on the image.

God sent his Son ...

- ❖ To show us his love
- ❖ To call us to love.
- ❖ To save and empower us.
- ❖ To show his worldwide mission.

1 John 4:15-16

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Evidence of abiding:

- ❖ Presence of Holy Spirit (13)
- ❖ Testimony that Jesus is the Son of God / Savior of the world (14)
- ❖ Love (16)

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1 John 4:17

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.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

1 John 4:18

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.

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1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

1 John 4:20

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.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

1 John 4:21

And he has given us this command:

Anyone who loves God must also love their
brother and sister.

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Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward them for what they have done.

Mark 12:30-31

[Jesus]: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Lord's Supper Discourse:

- ❖ John 13:34
- ❖ John 14:15
- ❖ John 15:12
- ❖ John 15:17

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a textured, light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

John 13:34

[Jesus]: “A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.”

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John 14:15

[Jesus]: "If you love me, keep my commands."

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is resting on a light-colored, textured surface. The text is overlaid on the image.

John 15:12

[Jesus]: “My command is this:
Love each other as I have loved you.”

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and clear lenses is positioned on a textured, light-colored surface. The glasses are slightly out of focus, and the background has a grainy, stippled appearance. The text is overlaid on the image.

John 15:17

[Jesus]: "This is my command:
Love each other."

How do you spell "love"

- ❖ For God — OBEY
- ❖ For others — GIVE

What have we learned?

- ❖ God defines love.
- ❖ God's love was shown at the cross of Christ.
- ❖ We are called to generous, sacrificial, compassionate love, like God's love.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Two column template:

- ❖ John 3:16
- ❖ John 10:11-18
- ❖ John 10:27-30
- ❖ John 15:9-18
- ❖ John 17:19
- ❖ 3 John 11