

LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD
THE SUPREME SIGNIFICANCE OF LOVE
1 JOHN 4:7-21



The Heart of the Matter

Of all the things John learned from Jesus during those years he walked alongside Him as one of the disciples, love was paramount. John's gospel mentions love much more than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When John recalled the Savior's final words to His disciples in the Upper Room, he remembered how often Jesus both spoke of love and demonstrated it. The power of Jesus's love transformed John's life. We should not be surprised, then, that when the apostle came to the end of his life and wrote a letter to the church, his major theme was to love one another. He underscored it repeatedly. As we examine today's section, we return to the same subject for the third time in this letter. (See also 1 John 2:7-10 and 3:11-18.)



Discovering the Way

1. Repeated Command: "Love One Another" (1 John 4:7-12)

John gave three reasons why we should obey the command of love. First is a theological reason (4:7-10). Second is a reciprocal reason (4:11). And third is a practical reason (4:12).

2. Divine Enablement: "God Abides in Him" (1 John 4:13-16)

If we love one another, then the Lord abides in us through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and His love abides within us.

3. Perfect Love: "Love Is Perfected with Us" (1 John 4:17-21)

If we love one another, then God's love is perfected in us, providing an unshrinking confidence, an absence of fear, and the ability to love others.



Starting Your Journey

Our love for God is validated by our love for our brothers and sisters in God's family. So, this week think of someone who has meant a lot to you, contact this person, and tell him or her, "I love you."



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