# 1 John Lesson 20

1 John 4:7-12

 “Love One Another”

Introduction: We have to ask this question about this three-fold test of assurance, which seems to be lacking the most in the lives of those to whom John wrote. John emphasized the matter of brotherly love. He dwells upon this fact

It is possible to abstain from things that are evil and on the outside live a holy life. It is possible to be orthodox in our doctrine and believe all that we are suppose to and still fail to exercise brotherly love. It is not only possible, it is often done. This keeps coming up in the book of 1 John. Our response ought to be that if God keeps bringing it up, then we should ask ourselves, “Do I exercise brotherly love?” We are forced to deal with this issue of loving as we are supposed to love. If we are missing this vital ingredient then how do we have assurance that we are His?

**I. Is all love of God? YES**

A. Then is everywhere that love is made manifest in human relationship evidence that a person knows God and that God lives in him? NO

 1. A Hindu mom loves her child as a Christian mother does.

 a. There is grief and heartache where a loved one dies.

 b. Such is common to all men everywhere

 c. Whether atheist, Muslim, or whatever the case may be.

 2. Such love is a gift from God that is received by all humanity.

 a. It is like “It rains on the just and the unjust”

 b. We are all recipients of the love of God.

 3. Every person who experiences human love is on the receiving end of God’s love.

 B. The issue at hand is that we love one another.

 1. Do we love those that are not our blood relatives?

 2. Do we love those that are of a different background?

 3. Do we love those that are of another race than we?

 4. Do we love those whose personality is not like ours?

 5. Do we love those whose economic standing is different?

 6. Do we love those whose intellectual capacity is different?

 C. This kind of love is not common to the whole world.

 1. Not in all human relationships.

 2. It is to be found in those who are the children of God.

 3. If you profess to know God, then surely there will be the presence of brotherly love.

 a. Because God is love.

 b. This is the very essence of God.

 1) Just like God IS Light

 2) Just like God IS Spirit

 3) Just like God IS HOLY

 c. These are not his attributes, they are his very nature.

 4. If you truly love God, you cannot have hatred for another person.

 a. This is a major contradiction to what God is.

 b. It is like sitting in a dark room and saying we are in light.

 5. If a man says he knows God, then love will be evident in his life.

 a. God’s Word is the plumb line.

 b. That which God is will be evident in His life.

 c. Why is it to be believed that a man knows God if there is not love out of his life.

**II. God does manifest love in the life of His children.**

 A. What kind of love does God manifest in as life?

 1. It is not like a family affection.

 a. Brothers and sisters fight but take up for another.

 b. Some families do not like each other but still love.

 2. It is not a performance based love.

 a. God does not love because of doing things that benefit Him or His cause.

 b. He does not need any of us to be who He is.

 3. It exists because of the lover not because of the loved.

 a. It is agape love.

 b. Look at Israel and wonder why God loved them.

 1) Because of Himself

 2) Not because of Israel.

 c. This is the same reason God loves you and me.

 1) He does not look down and see good qualities.

 2) He does not look down and notice character to love.

 3) He does look for righteousness to love.

 4) He sees that there is none righteous.

 d. He loves us though we are without any merit of His Love.

 B. This truth of God’s Love is the very peak of what is profound.

 1. It is very hard to believe.

 a. We know ourselves and we know others.

 b. We can easily see humanity as a whole.

 2. John insists that it is the very nature of God.

 3. It is amazing to consider the vastness of creation, and know that God loves you and me personally.

 a. Such a personal creator is not too busy to be bothered with my life.

 b. He is so great that He can be bothered with each person individually.

 c. He is so powerful and awesome that He is concerned about every detail of our lives.

 4. To deny His Love is to refute the very nature that God expresses about Himself.

 a. It is to tell God that He did not tell the truth about Himself.

 b. We ask why all the heartache in this world?

 c. But we know that God is always righteous regardless of what I know and understand which is limited.

 d. God is always right and always will be.

 1) He cannot be other than what He is.

 2) My understanding has to fit with who God is.

 C. God sent His only Son into the world.

 1. If that was all that He did, that would be great love.

 2. He sent Him that we might live through Him.

 a. That His Son might be sacrificed for us.

 b. He sent Him to die for our sin.

 B. If God so loved us, what is our problem.

 1. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

 2. The cross of Jesus forever settled the question of God’s love.

 a. The cross says it all….He loves us.

 b. Though we may not know, His love is forever settled by the cross.

 c. Don’t look at what you are facing, look to the cross and see His love.

 3. The manifestation of God’s love is the death of His Son on the cross for all sin.

 4. Can anyone give a good reason why they cannot love another person around them.

 a. We have no excuse if we have received His love for us.

 b. We are not justified, knowing that we are not worthy of His love for us but have it freely.

Conclusion:

Let His love be perfected in us. When can never justify not loving someone when we are supposed to have the love of God and He is love and loves unconditionally.

Don’t hang your hope for eternal life on a profession that does not change your attitude toward the unlovable.