



HOW MUCH DOES
GOD LOVE ME?

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

How Much Does God Love Me?

God is love!

We hear it all the time. Christians and non-Christians alike know “God is love”. However, the world often quotes the truth without knowing the context and maybe they are missing the point. Often the world implies that God is love and therefore He will not judge sin. But, is that really the context?

Love is part of the very being and nature of God. And, if God is love what difference does that make in the lives of the children of God, His image bearers here on earth?

1 John 4 is a fascinating study on the love of God, it is mentioned more than twenty times in this one chapter. As you look at 1 John 4 you will see for yourself how important love is to God and its implications for our lives.

Directions

Read 1 John 4:7-21, out loud. We realize that reading out loud may sound a little awkward, but for this Bible study give it a try. It will really help you focus on the text.

To help put us in context we are going to start by looking at God and see what we can learn about Him.

As you read draw a yellow triangle over each reference to God (including pronouns).

1 John 4:7-21

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might 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 propitiation for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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Making lists

Now go back and look at where you marked *God*. Make a list of what you learn specifically about God. (Not everywhere you mark the word *God* will you learn something about *Him* but don't get too bogged down.)

Read this passage aloud again. (We know you have already read it but by doing so you will begin to really know what is there.) This time as you read draw a red heart over each reference to *love*.

When you have finished go back and make a list of what the text tells you about love. In making your list use words from the text as much as possible.

At the end of this Bible study we have included a list on both God and love simply for the sake of comparison. The act of listing helps you process the information and it will take you to a deeper level of learning.

- 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
- 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.
- 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.
- 19 We love because he first loved us.
- 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.
- 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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Questions for Discussion or Personal Reflection

What do you learn about God in these verses?

The word "propitiation" means that Jesus is the means by which our sins are forgiven.

Love isn't simply a warm fuzzy feeling, it takes action. How did God show His love in verses 9 and 10?

From what you have seen in verses 9 and 10, if God sent His Son in order for our sins to be forgiven, how would you respond to someone who says "God is love and He would never judge my sin!"?

What did you learn by marking *love*?

How could these truths about love help an individual?

According to verses 7 and 8,
whom are we to love?

where does love come from?

what is true of everyone who loves?

what is true of the one who does not love?

According to verse 20, if I say I love God, yet I hate my brother what am I?

If God loves us what should we do?

How Much Does God Love Me?

What did you learn specifically about **love**?

Why do we love?

What is the distinguishing mark of a believer? Why?

How is your love life? Are you loving as God says you are to love?

So you don't miss it, if God is love will He judge sin? Why? Explain your answer.

Wrapping it up

Are you beginning to get a glimpse of how much God loves you and how much He intends for you to show love for those around you? Love is best expressed by action—and how well God expressed it! He gave the greatest gift of all: His only Son! He loved you so much that while you were still His enemy, Christ died for you!

If Christ is in us, and we are in Christ, is it too much for us to love our brother? Neighbor? Our enemy? We can tell whose child we are by the way we love!

How Much Does God Love Me?

List of What We Learn About God in 1 John 4:7-21

1. God is love (vs. 8)
2. God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (vs. 9)
3. He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (vs. 10)
4. No one has ever seen God (vs. 12)
5. God is love (vs. 16)
6. He first loved us (vs. 19)
7. God has not been seen (vs. 20)
8. God's commandment to us: whoever loves God must also love his brother (vs. 21)

List of What We Learn About Love

1. We should love one another (vs. 7)
2. Love is from God (vs. 7)
3. Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (vs. 7)
4. Anyone who does not love does not know God (vs. 8)
5. God is love. (vs. 8)
6. Love of God shown by God sending Jesus. (vs. 9)
7. This is love, not that we have loved God (vs. 10) but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
8. God loves us, (vs. 11)
9. We should love one another. (vs. 11)
10. If we love one another, God is in us and his love is perfected in us. (vs. 12)
11. We know and believe God loves us. (vs. 16)
12. God is love (vs. 16)
13. Whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (vs. 16)
14. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment (vs. 17)
15. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. (vs. 18)
16. Whoever fears (punishment) has not been perfected in love. (vs. 18)
17. We love because he first loved us. (vs. 19)
18. Anyone who says, "I love God," and hates his brother, is a liar (vs. 20)
19. If you don't love your brother whom you have seen you can't love God whom you haven't seen. (vs. 20)
20. Whoever loves God must also love his brother. (vs. 21)