



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 4:7-10

Love Revealed and Defined

by Bob DeWaay

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Let Us Love One Another

1 John 4:7 (NASB)
Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

- John speaks of love that is uniquely given by God through special grace

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God's Special Love

- If you reject God you lack *agape* love as John describes it
- If we reject God, the Bible calls this "hate" (John 15:23)
- Mere human love is inadequate if it fails to honor the Son by faith
- Only love as defined here is a manifestation of being born of God and knowing God

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God Is Love

1 John 4:8 (NASB)
The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- Divine love is a communicable attribute of God
- That God is love does not imply “love is God”!

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Important Considerations

- God is personal and has acted in history to define love (John 3:16, 1John 3:16)
- What fallen humans consider loving cannot define God or His love!
- God’s other attributes cannot be ignored or excluded because we like this one better
- Human imagination is not a valid source of Christian theology

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God’s Love Revealed

1 John 4:9 (NASB)
By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

- God acted in history for man’s salvation

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Important Considerations

- Love revealed:
 - Where: in us
 - How: by God sending His Son
 - Why: that we might live
- Before knowing Christ we were spiritually dead
- God sending the Son implies pre-existence

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Inadequate Human Love

1 John 4:10a (NASB)

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us

- The love of which John speaks only comes from God and we did not know Him

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Important Considerations

- We did not love God as He must be loved
- God's loving and sending was not caused by human merit
- God took decisive action in His Son
- God demonstrated and actualized saving love
- Love is expressed by God to undeserving sinners

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God's Atoning Sacrifice

1 John 4:10b (NASB)
and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- "Propitiation" implies removal of God's wrath though a sacrifice (Romans 3:25)

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Biblical Love	Not Knowing God
<p>1Jn 4:7 Love from God Born of God and knows God</p> <p>1Jn 4:9 Love manifested in us through the Son</p> <p>1Jn 4:9 We live</p> <p>1Jn 4:10 He loved us He sent the Son He made atonement</p> <p><i>We Live Through Him</i></p>	<p>1Jn 4:8 Does not love Does not know God</p> <p>1Jn 4:10 NOT that we loved God Inadequate human love will not come to God on His terms Rejects the need for a blood atonement</p> <p><i>Not Born of God</i></p>

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Implications and Applications

- God sent the Son that we might live
- The blood atonement shows God's love and God's plan

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That You May Believe

John 20:31 (NASB)

but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

- Faith in Christ leads to eternal life

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True Life by Faith in Christ

John 11:25-27 (NASB)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

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Important Considerations

- If there was no bodily resurrection, Jesus' claims were false
- If Jesus' claims were false, He lied
- If Jesus lied, He was not sinless
- If Jesus was not sinless, His death was blemished
- If Jesus the Lamb of God was blemished, His blood did not satisfy God's justice

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Love and the Blood Atonement

Isaiah 53:5 (NASB)

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

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God Is Pleased to Suffer for Man

Isaiah 53:10 (NASB)

But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

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