



4 Appreciate God's love

The basis of great mercy v17

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love. 1 John 4:16



“Relationships”

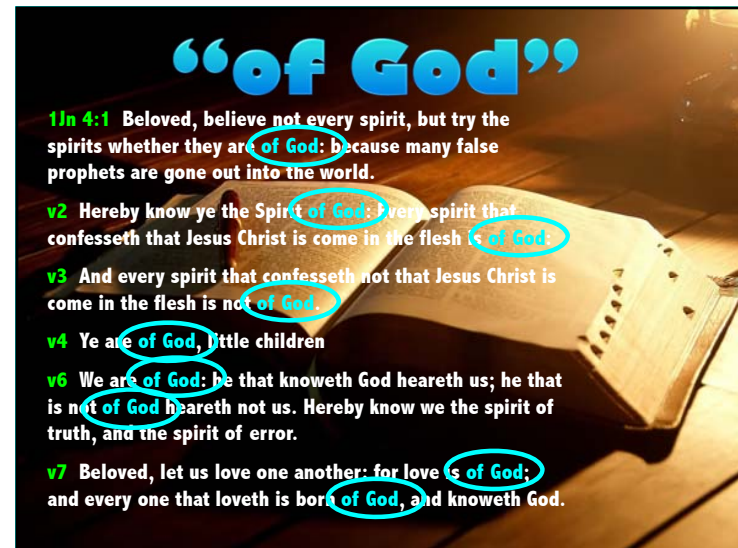
So far in this epistle, John has discussed what our relationship should be (or not be) in regards to:

- God 1:5-6** God is Light
- Christ 2:3-4** his present role
- The World 2:15** Don't love it
- Sin 3:4-5** how to deal with it
- Brethren 3:11** They're our family
- False teaching 4:1-6** Test it
- Love 4:7-21** is a core attribute



“Beloved”

- 3:2 Beloved**, now are we the sons of God
- 3:21 Beloved**, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
- 4:1 Beloved**, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God
- 4:7 Beloved**, let us love one another
- 4:11 Beloved**, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.



“of God”

- 1Jn 4:1** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are **of God**; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
- v2** Hereby know ye the Spirit **of God**: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh **is of God**.
- v3** And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not **of God**.
- v4** Ye are **of God**, little children
- v6** We are **of God**: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not **of God** heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
- v7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love **is of God**; and every one that loveth is born **of God**, and knoweth God.

ANTICHRIST

Bullinger; "An opponent of Christ; that which sets itself in the place of Christ, which appears as Christ in opposition to Christ."

"ANTICHRISTOS can mean either against Christ or instead of Christ... Combining the two, 'one who, assuming the guise of Christ, opposes Christ.'" (Vine Expository Dictionary of NT)

"Antichrist" Means:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Against Christ | In opposition to Christ |
| 2. Instead of Christ | A counterfeit of Christ |

Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ Luke 21:8

ANTICHRIST

- The word Antichrist occurs only five times in 4 passages of our Bible – ALL in John's epistle.
- Surprisingly it never occurs in the book of Revelation!

ANTICHRIST

• 1 John 2:18

Antichrist already existed in John's time.

• 1 John 2:22

Rejected the sonship of Christ and the absolute supremacy of God.

• 1 John 4:3

Rejected that Christ was a mortal being.

• 2 John 7

Antichrist was a system of belief not just a single individual.

ANTICHRIST

• 1 John 4:3-5

Rejected that Christ was a mortal being.
Introduced Trinitarian concepts
Doctrinally popular with the world

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death." Heb 5:7

"Forasmuch children partakers flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same..." Heb 2:14

"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh Rom 1:3,4

Summary **ANTICHRIST**

- "As you have heard" - Christ previous warned eg Mat 24
- "Even now there are" - Existed in John's day
- "many antichrists" - Plural, many not just one person.
- "went out from us" - At one stage they were believers
- "they were not of us" - Departed from the Truth
- "denied the father and son" - rejected the sonship of Christ
- "Jesus is not in the flesh" - Denied the mortality Christ, and later accepted trinity, Nicene, Athanasian creeds
- "now already in the world" - Developing spread of error
- "Many deceivers" - Religious system not a single individual

The power behind us is immensely greater than the obstacles ahead of us.

v4 Overcoming problems

"Take courage, I have overcome the world" Jn 16:33

The Bridge "Knowing God"

v6 We are of God: he that **knoweth** God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby **know** we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

v7 Beloved, let us **love** one another: for **love** is of God; and every one that **loveth** is born of God, and **knoweth** God.

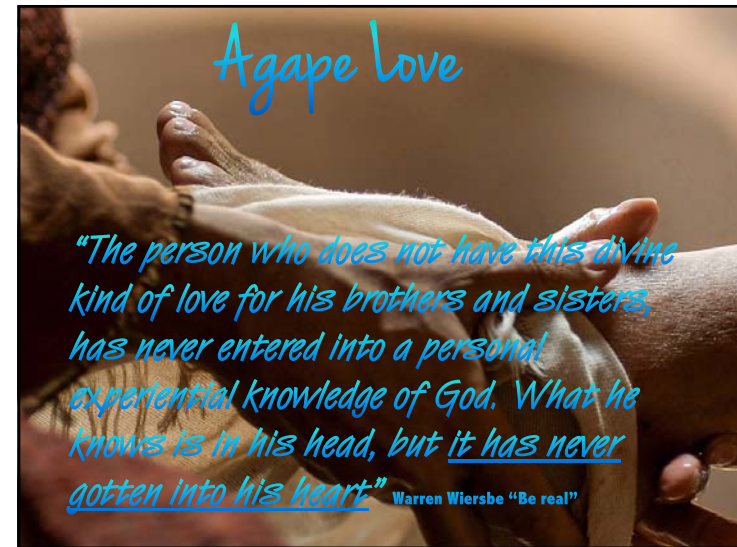
v8 He that **loveth** not **knoweth** not God; for God is **love**.

**YOU DON'T
KNOW GOD!**



John's Exposition On Agape Love 4:7-21

- Agape love is **evidence** of sonship (7)
- Agape love is **defined** by God's character (8)
- Agape love is **illustrated** by God's love (9-11)
- Agape love is **proof** of fellowship with God (12-16)
- Agape love provides **assurance** (17-19)
- Agape love is **fulfilling** Christ's command (20-21)



Agape Love

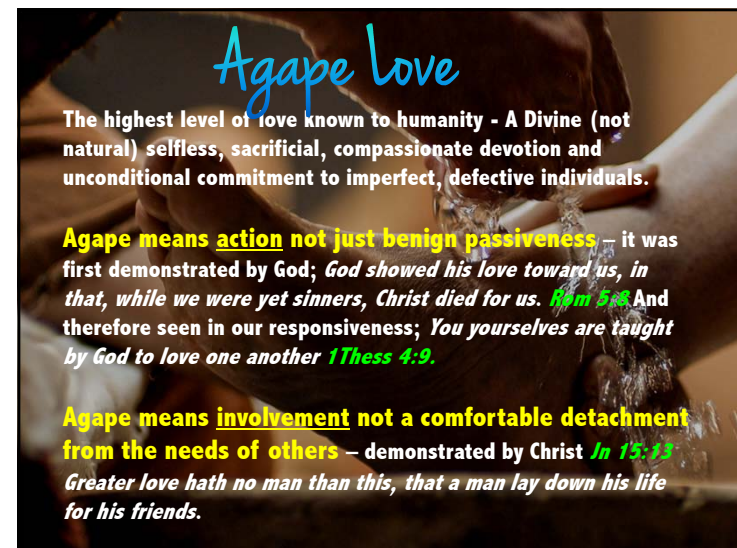
"The person who does not have this divine kind of love for his brothers and sisters, has never entered into a personal experiential knowledge of God. What he knows is in his head, but it has never gotten into his heart" Warren Wiersbe "Be real"



Agape Love

32x in 17vs!

4:7-5:3

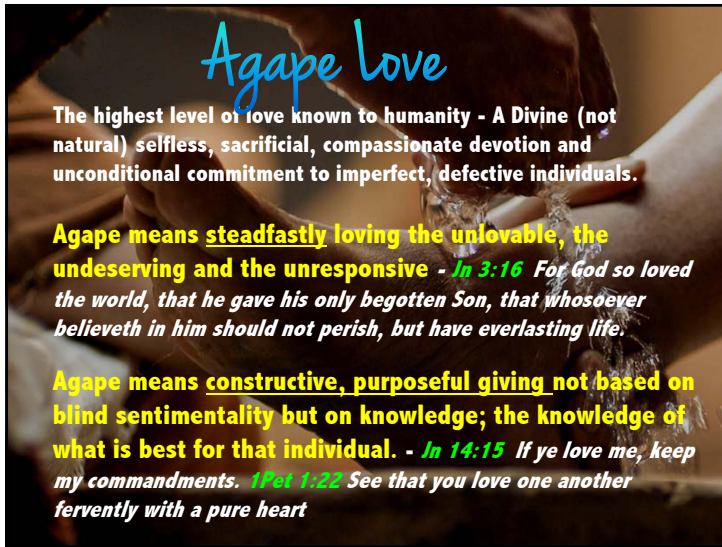


Agape Love

The highest level of love known to humanity - A Divine (not natural) selfless, sacrificial, compassionate devotion and unconditional commitment to imperfect, defective individuals.

Agape means action not just benign passiveness – it was first demonstrated by God; *God showed his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8* And therefore seen in our responsiveness; *You yourselves are taught by God to love one another 1Thess 4:9.*

Agape means involvement not a comfortable detachment from the needs of others – demonstrated by Christ *In 15:13* Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.



Agape Love

The highest level of love known to humanity - A Divine (not natural) selfless, sacrificial, compassionate devotion and unconditional commitment to imperfect, defective individuals.

Agape means steadfastly loving the unlovable, the undeserving and the unresponsive - *In 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

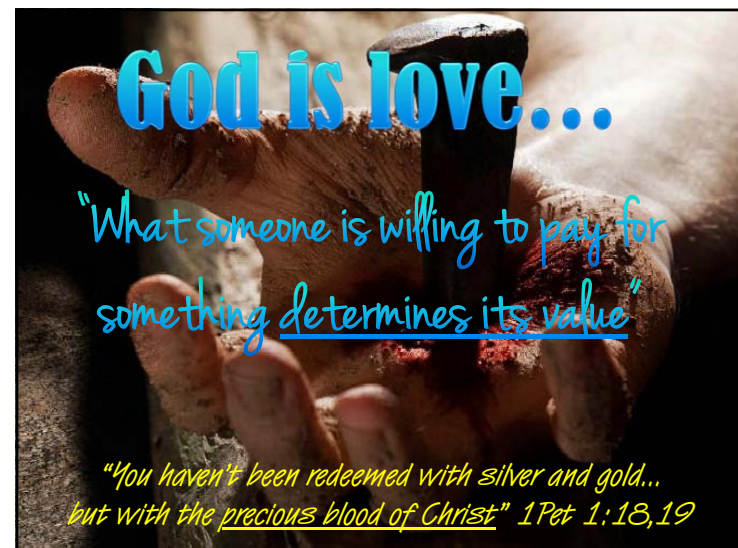
Agape means constructive, purposeful giving not based on blind sentimentality but on knowledge; the knowledge of what is best for that individual. - *In 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 1Pet 1:22 See that you love one another fervently with a pure heart*




God is love...

One of the great short, affirmative statements about the character of God. It's so important and so fundamental John repeats it again in **v16**!

"Love does not define God, but God defines love"



God is love...

"What someone is willing to pay for something determines its value"

"You haven't been redeemed with silver and gold... but with the precious blood of Christ" 1Pet 1:18,19

What does it mean to "love one another?"

Mutual humility

Be of the same mind (Rom 12:16)
 Receive one another (Rom 15:7)
 Have the same care for everyone (1Cor 12:25)
 Have compassion (1 Peter 3:8,9)
 Be devoted (Rom 12:10)
 Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)
 Esteem others as better (Phil 2:3,4)
 Live in peace (1Thess 5:12,13)
 Bear with one another (Eph 4:1-3)
 Forgive (Eph 4:31,32)

What does it mean to "love one another?"

Mutual service

Serve one another (1Pet 4:10)
 Bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)
 Be kind to each other (Eph 4:31,32)
 Show hospitality (1Peter 4:9)
 Confess to and pray for one another (Jam 5:16)
Mutual edification
 Build up (Rom 14:19)
 Admonish (Rom 15:14)
 Exhort (Heb 3:12,13)
 Teach through song (Col 3:16)
 Assemble and consider one another to stir up (Heb 10:24,25)

What does it mean to "love one another?"

Mutual consideration

Do not judge (Rom 14:13)
 Do not speak evil of one another (Jam 4:11)
 Do not murmur against (Jam 5:9)
 Do not bite and devour one another (Gal 5:14,15)
 Do not lie (Col 3:9)

Beloved, if God so loved us,
 we ought also to love one another 4:11

"In him"

1:5 in him is no darkness at all.
 2:4 whoso keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk
 2:8 which thing is true in him and in you
 2:15 If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 2:27 ye shall abide in him.
 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him
 3:3 every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
 3:5 in him is no sin.
 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not
 3:15 ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
 3:17 how dwelleth the love of God in him?
 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him.
 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us
 4:15 God dwelleth in him, and he in God.
 4:16 God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
 5:14 this is the confidence that we have in him
 5:20 we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ.

v16,17 God's love perfected

Real love requires...

- v15 CONFESSION
- v16 BELIEF
- v17 CONFIDENCE
- v18 OPENNESS
- v19 APPRECIATION
- v20 HONESTY
- v21 ACCEPTANCE

"We know how much God loves us because we have felt his love and because we believe him when he tells us that he loves us dearly"
v16 TLB

CONFIDENCE



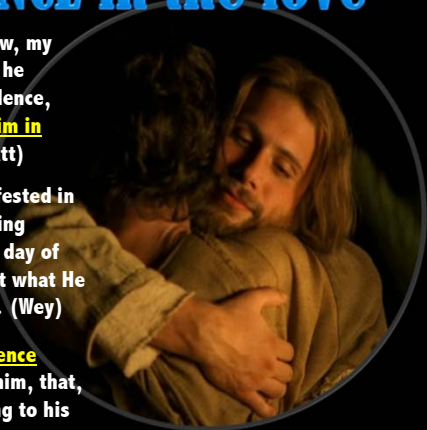
Parrhēsia (Thayer)
Freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech.
Openly, frankly, without concealment, without ambiguity or circumlocution
"openness, free speaking, frankness, bluntness"

2Cor 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech

Act 2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David

Mk 8:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

CONFIDENCE in the love



2:28 Remain within him now, my dear children, so that when he appears we may have confidence, instead of shrinking from him in shame at his arrival. (Moffatt)

4:17 Our love will be manifested in all its perfection by our having complete confidence on the day of the Judgement; because just what He is, we also are in the world. (Wey)

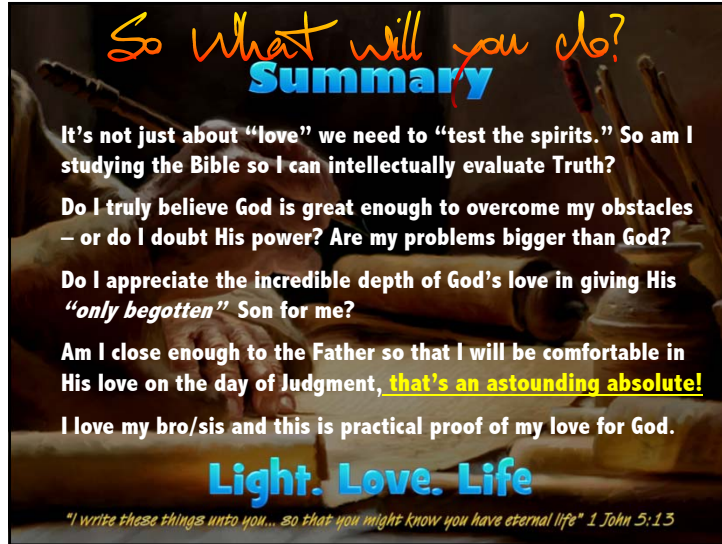
5:14 And this is the confidence (same Gk) that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us

FRANKNESS, OPENNESS



Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly (meta parrhēsia) unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.





So what will you do?
Summary

It's not just about "love" we need to "test the spirits." So am I studying the Bible so I can intellectually evaluate Truth?

Do I truly believe God is great enough to overcome my obstacles – or do I doubt His power? Are my problems bigger than God?

Do I appreciate the incredible depth of God's love in giving His "only begotten" Son for me?

Am I close enough to the Father so that I will be comfortable in His love on the day of Judgment, that's an astounding absolute!

I love my bro/sis and this is practical proof of my love for God.

Light. Love. Life

"I write these things unto you... so that you might know you have eternal life" 1 John 5:13