

God is Love Series

Love is who God is...

Introduction

Apostle John's epistle offers an apologetic (*reasoned arguments to qualify the truth of a specific subject matter or doctrine*) concerning the ministry and identity of the Messiah. This epistle is responsible for two of three declarations expressing definitive terms about God's divine nature. God is **light**, found in chapter one, and God is **love** in chapter four, are distinct definitions of characteristics found only in the God of creation. The third reference in the Gospel of John offers the first Biblical definitive with the illumination that God is a **spirit**.

The combined definitions represent the eternal essence of God's nature as Spirit- eternal presence, Light- eternal illumination, and Love- eternal nature.

God is Love: "agape" from "agab" (aw-gab), the Greek word means to breathe after. The term God is love is not an adjective describing God's ability or passion but a definitive that reveals his constant (eternal) nature. Love is God; there is no love without Him.

Love is not what He does; Love is who God is. He breathes love- it is His constant existing nature. He loves ALWAYS and ALWAYS is love.

God does not choose to love man; He loves man, resulting from His nature to love, which is not influenced or affected by man's nature or behavior.

Lesson One

God is Love

IJohn 4:6 - 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.

IJohn 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

IJohn 4:8 - He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Lesson Notes:

(IJohn 4:6) – We are of God, which means we are His prodigy. All those who know God will hear the voice of His children. Those who are not God’s prodigy cannot hear the voice of His children. The ability to distinguish between truth and error relies upon hearing God’s voice, including when He speaks through His children.

The word “error” means something more than a mistake or misstep. The Greek word used in the passage implies *fraud* (*plane* “plan-ay”). The word describes a fraudulent object posing as a truthful representation with similar look-a-like features intending to replace the authentic item. The spirit of Truth available to God’s offspring allows them to discern the truthful witnesses from the fraudulent imposter’s misrepresentation of the truth.

(IJohn 4:7) – The attention turns from explaining God’s eternal nature of love to providing instructions for how His children should love one another. The first acknowledgment is recognizing that love is not man’s default nature. Generally, human love is offered with an expectation of reciprocation or to preserve self-serving interests. Human love relationships are conditioned mainly upon receiving love or preserving relationship benefits.

Love that comes from God requires human relationships to love always and to love everyone always. The children of God are reborn with His love nature embedded in them.

God’s love **for** and **in us** is the foundation of our love for one another.

As His prodigy, the children of God are compelled to overcome their default nature of conditional love and evolve to love others because of His nature residing in them.

(IJohn 4:8) – Anyone not influenced by God's nature to love does not know God. Not knowing God leaves a person to love others limited to the characteristics of human love. Love relationships without the inspiration of God's love survive, including those that choose to marry. Although many do thrive as they survive, some relationships become unhealthy and love-less even while both participants formally remain together. Staying together differs from two people learning to love each other without conditions or selfish objectives.

Two Christian believers bonded together does not automatically secure the relationship. Believers must also ensure both persons understand God's love operating in their personal lives before they can offer healthy, God-infused love to the person to whom they are connected. Christians cannot simply refer to Bible scriptures when they reach an impasse in their relationship. The word of God is intended to instruct and inspire believers to apply the truth in how they react and respond to issues faced in life.

The goal of being in a love relationship or marriage should not simply be to survive. Instead, the greater goal is to unite with another believer and learn to be inspired by the nature of God's love. When a person is filled with God's love, they can respond with love without any expectation of what they might gain. God's inspiration allows them to hope in love even when expectations have not been met, offering love and forgiveness when one has been hurt.

Loving others is not a part of man's base nature. Without experiencing God's love, man cannot love others selflessly. Love expressed between humans without the influence of God is hinged upon conditions or other expectations that must be met. Influenced by God's nature, people can love others because they know God, and experiencing His love allows them to express God's love.

Love is the greatest representation of God on the earth. Love outweighs all other deeds and demonstrations of works miracles. Love is the loudest message that can be spoken by sharing among others.

The Bible declares that the world will know God's people by their love. The greatest witness residing in us is God's love. God is love, and those who love God should love all others.