

# **God Is Love**

**1 John 4:7-12**

**Beloved, let us love one another**

1 John 4:7

**We also ought to love one another.**

1 John 4:11

- 1 John 4:7: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 4:11: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- Let Us: implies that we have a choice
  - More John is going to demonstrate why this is the right choice.
- Ought to: an imperative
  - John has made his case, and so brings us to understand that loving each other is really not an option for those who are in Christ
-

*love one another*

**Anyone who **does not love** does not know God**

1 John 4:8

- 1 John 4:8: Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- How could someone claim to be a disciple of Jesus and yet not love one who is his brother?
- Must understand this love...
  - Not merely about whether we like someone or find them agreeable

*love one another*

**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.**

1 John 4:8

*made clear*

*active*

*sacrificial*

*purposeful*

- 1 John 4:9: 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.
  - Manifest: bring to light, make clear; not hidden
    - God sent (Action)
    - only Son (Sacrifice)
    - So that we might live through him (Purposeful for the benefit of another)

*love one another*

**Anyone who **does not love** does not know God**

1 John 4:8

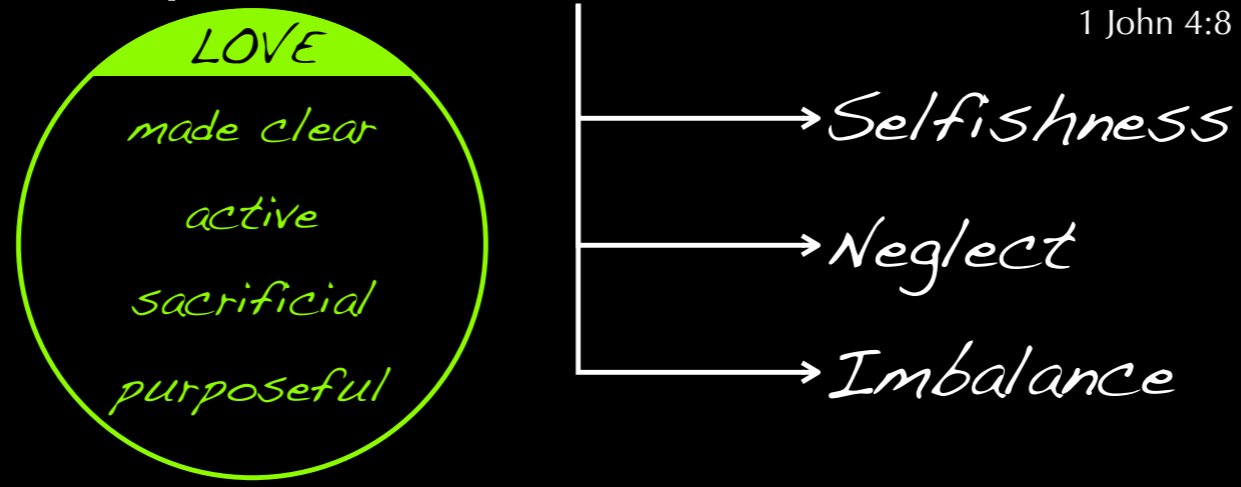


- How/Why not love one another?
  - If I don't make my love clear; if I don't open my heart and my life to others
  - If I don't do something tangible (not just thoughts, and words)
  - If I don't do something sacrificial (it's giving ... but more)
  - If I don't do something to purposefully help another in a way that helps them.

*love one another*

**Anyone who **does not love** does not know God**

1 John 4:8



- Selfishness: I love only for the benefit to myself; I'm not thinking of the other person
- Neglectful: Just don't do anything
- Often lose focus on the importance of love.
  - Over emphasizing specific aspects of our faith (not wrong in themselves)
    - Pharisees seemed to have done this (Sabbath vs. Healing, Honoring Parents vs. giving to God)
  - We dismiss our brother (arrogance, jealousy)
  -

*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

**because you loved me before  
the foundation of the world**

John 17:24

- John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
- Everything that God does must include this essential trait: love



*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

*Seeing God's love in the garden.*

*Created in His image.*

- In the garden, did God demonstrate his love? Did Adam and Eve perceive it?
- Created in the Image of God
  - Genesis 1:27-30 (ESV) 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food."

*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

*Seeing God's love in the garden.*

*Put man in the garden.*

- The Garden demonstrates Love

- Genesis 2:7-17 (ESV) 7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14 And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

*Seeing God's love in the garden.*

*Eating of the fruit.*

- Disobedience (Genesis 3)
  - During this moment did they see God's love?
    - We often focus on God's holiness or God's wrath (justifiable)
  - 8) God walking in the garden (He knew what they had done, he still went to be with him.)
  - 9) God called out: "Where are you?" (Still seeking them)
  - 10) Adam: "I was afraid."
  - 11) God
    - Who told you that you were naked?
    - Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

*Seeing God's love in the garden.*

*Eating of the fruit.*



- 16) Punishment of Woman
- 17-19) Punishment of Man
- 21) Made garments of skins and clothed them
- 24) Drove out the man

*love one another*

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

- God is love.
  - Everything about who God is and what he does must include this: He Is LOVE.

*love one another*

**Love is from God.**

1 John 4:7

- 1 John 4:7: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

*love one another*

**Love is from God.**

1 John 4:7

*Not that we have loved God  
but that He loved us*

*1 John 4:10*

- 1 John 4:10 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.

*love one another*

**Love is from God.**

1 John 4:7

*For God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only son  
John 3:16*

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



*love one another*

**Love is from God.**

1 John 4:7

*God shows His love for us in that while  
we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Romans 5:8*

- Romans 5:8 (ESV) 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*love one another*

**Love is from God.**

1 John 4:7

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of  
the great love with which he love us, even  
when we were dead in our trespasses*

*Ephesians 2:4-5*

- Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*love one another*

**Love is from God.**

1 John 4:7

*We love because He first loved us.*

*1 John 4:19*

- 1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.
  - from the creation!
  - from His salvation: an eternal purpose that points to all mankind, and even me.
  - from the day that I am born, to sin, to (hopefully) salvation.
- His love is so great that it changes us to be like him.

*love one another*

**God's love is perfected in us.**

1 John 4:12

- 1 John 4:12: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

*love one another*

*God is  
LOVE*

- God is love and love is from God (8, 7)
  - 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world,
  - 10 In this is love,
    - but that he loved us and
      - sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

*love one another*

*God is  
LOVE*

*BELOVED*

- 7 **Beloved**, let us love one another,
- 11 **Beloved**, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

love one another

God is  
LOVE



born of God &  
knows God  
1 John 4:7

BELOVED

- 7 whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
  - 10) sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

*love one another*

*God is  
LOVE*



*born of God &  
knows God  
1 John 4:7*

*BELOVED*

- John 3:5-8 (ESV) 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”



*love one another*

*God is  
LOVE*



*born of God &  
knows God  
1 John 4:7*

*BELOVED*

- John 3:16-18 (ESV) 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

*love one another*

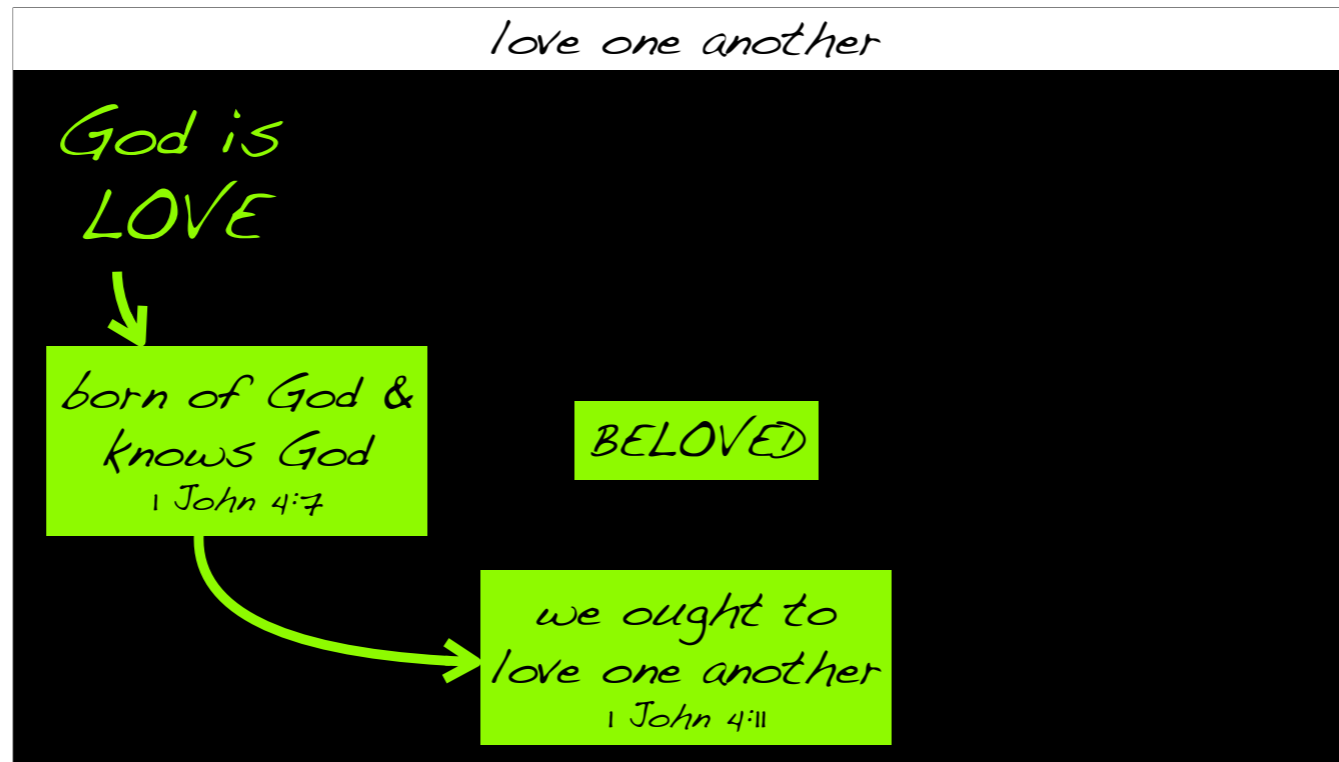
*God is  
LOVE*



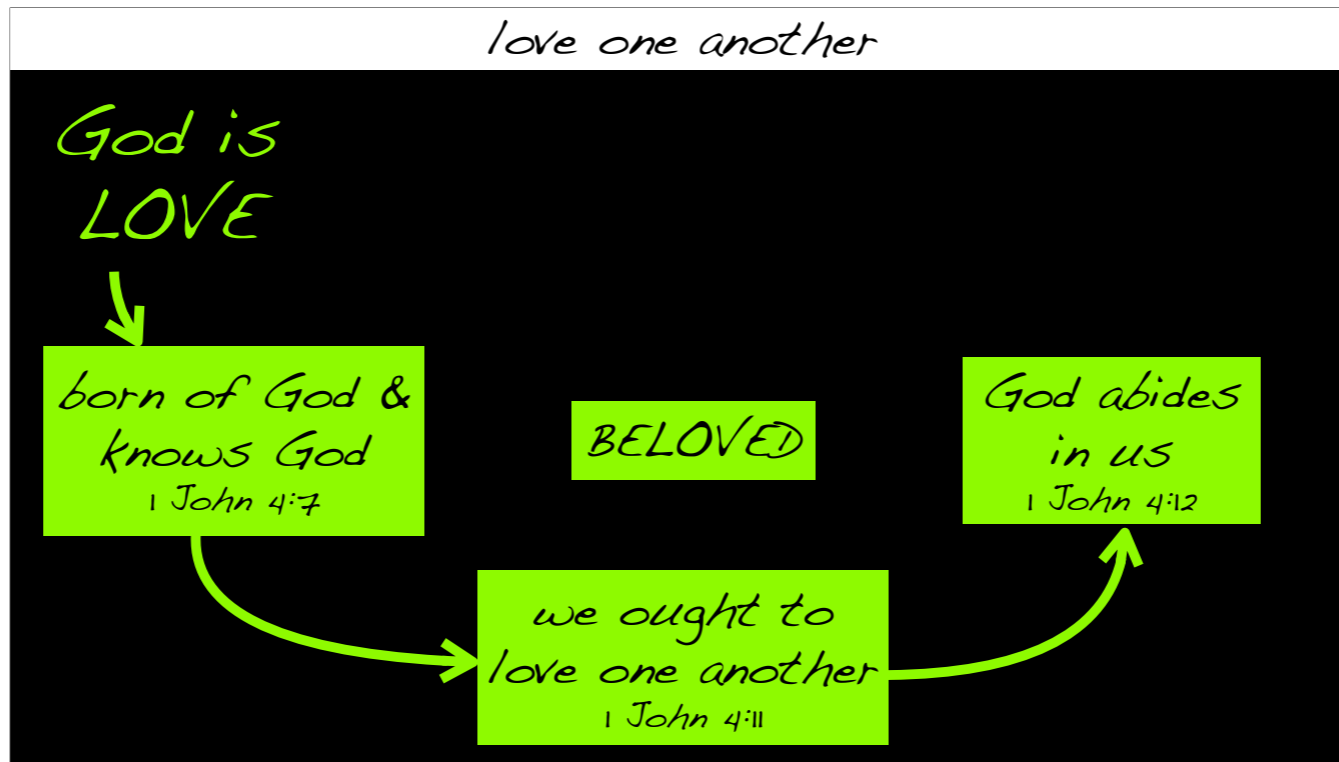
*born of God &  
knows God  
1 John 4:7*

*BELOVED*

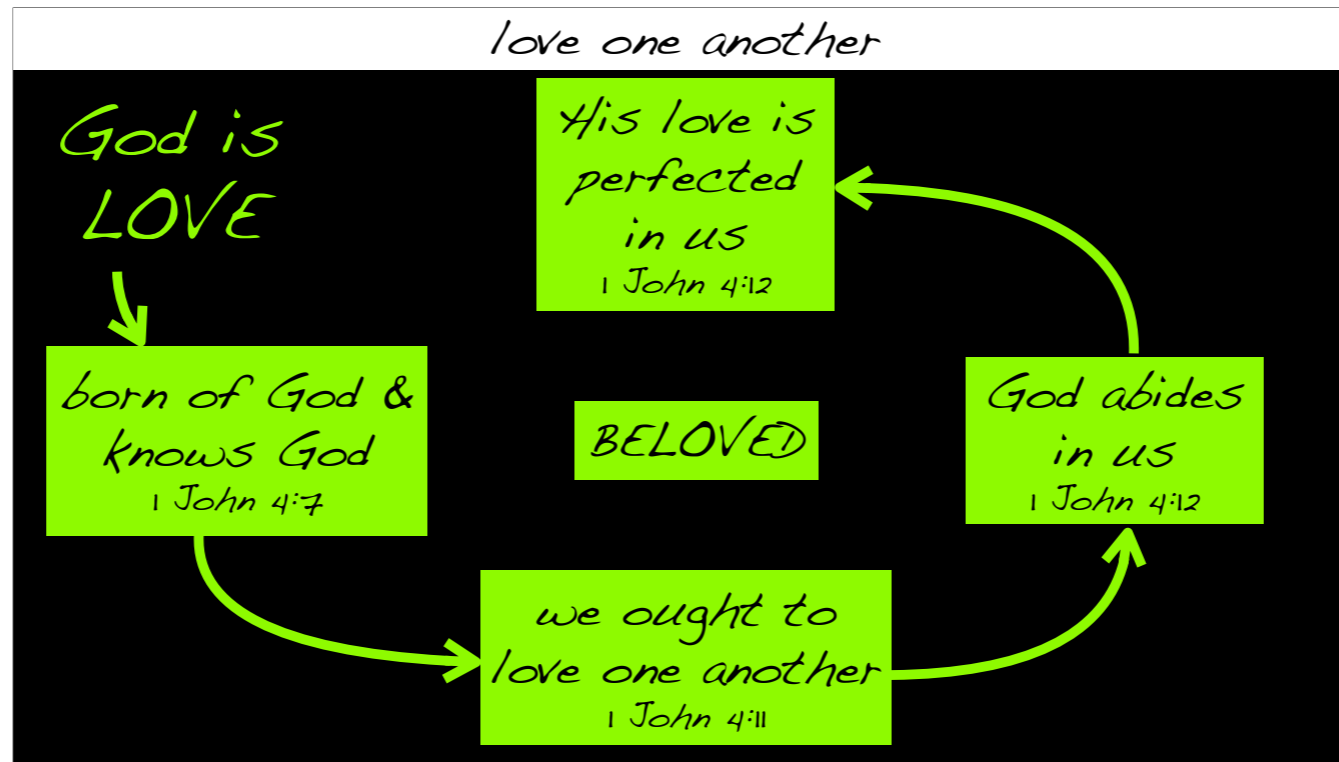
- Born of God: believes, repents, baptized, forgiven, eternal life
- Knows God: relationship: He is my God, I am his people; Father and son (adopted)



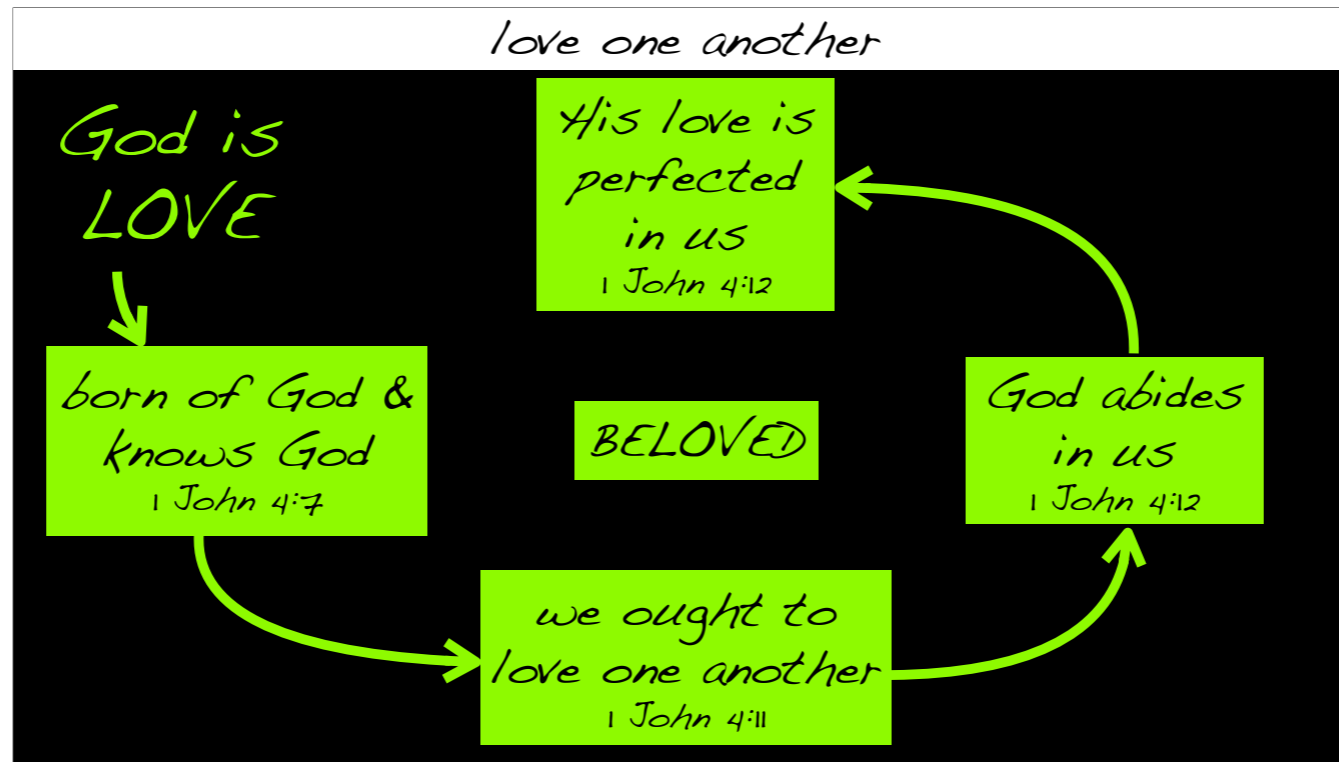
- 11 **Beloved**, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- Having been born of God and knowing him means
  - That we are to be like him (son)
  - That we understand that he is Love (know)
- Since God is love and I am his son: I must be love also.



- 12: if we love one another,
  - God abides in us



- 12: if we love one another,
  - his love is perfected in us
- perfected = completed
  - God's love is about bringing life and relationship
  - By loving one another we are both like God in character and in our actions
  - What God begins, we bring to full bloom when we love each other the way that God loves us.



- Love one another
  - God is love, love is from God
  - Salvation, brotherhood
- This provides us with a great measure of our true relationship with God
  - Am I loving you like Jesus loves me?
- This love must not be altered by our emotions or judgments against one another
  - God is love all the time.
  - In garden ... even while dealing with disobedience.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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One Another

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## God Is Love

1 John 4:7-12

Synopsis: When we love one another, God's love is perfected in us. Loving one another has its roots in who God is and what he does for us. When we become his children, we ought to love one another.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**