



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

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Love and the Joy Leverage: Study of Philippians
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Love and the Joy Leverage

1 John 4: 7-21

1 John 4:7 Beloved

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

- Beloved - Means you are loved. It's not just a statement, it is your identity. The word beloved here literally means "beloved, esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love". - Ron Edmondson
- You must grasp the fullness of this in order to experience the truth and joy of Salvation; otherwise you will believe that loving others is the payment God expects as the fair exchange for loving you. If you do not fully understand this love, then you will love others to earn Gods love.
- You cannot earn God's love, you are simple Beloved!
- ***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8***
- ***We love because he first loved us. 1John 4:19***
- Knowing the love of God personally is paramount to Loving one another.
 - o It is futile to try and love one another if you have not experienced that love.
 - o It is futile to try and love better/more without first trying to grow in your understanding or Gods love for you and growing in your love for him.
- We are all beloved but we must accept that love by faith. John 3:16. You can only be transformed by Love is you acknowledge it. What a tragedy to be loved and not believe it.

1 John 4:7 *Let us love one another.*

- Love for God & others is a natural result or outcome of being Gods beloved.

- While loving others is a natural result of being Gods beloved, it still has to be taught and caught. Otherwise Paul would not have taught about it.

1 John 4:9-11

⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

God's definition of love is different from all other definitions.

- Verses 9-11 is a clear definition of God's perspective of love.
 - o **9:** Love sacrifices, sometimes completely, for the benefit of others.
 - o **10:** Love is not earned or deserved, it's just giving.
 - o **11:** Love can transform a person.

1 John 4:12-16

¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has set the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Love and the Spirit filled life.

- God's love, present and lived out in our life is a result and evidence of a Spirit filled life.
- If you have all the other gifts and do not have love, you have nothing.
1Corinthians 13.

1 John 4:17-19

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves

torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

- Joy & Peace comes from the Love of God.

1 John 4:20 & 21

²⁰If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹and this commandment we have from Him:that he who loves God must love his brother also.

- Loving God will always result in loving our brother.

1 John 3:16-18

¹⁶By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

- Loving our brother is expressed in action.