

## Love One Another 1 John 4:7-12

- I. What does it mean to love one another?
  - A. Love is greatly misunderstood.
    1. The immature don't grasp the basis of love.
      - a. Lust is mistaken for love.
      - b. Shallow feelings (i.e. puppy love) passes for true love.
    2. The bitter cannot appreciate love.
      - a. Those who don't love others find it hard to believe that they can be loved by God.
      - b. Love (like a smile) is something that you have to give to receive.
    3. The weary are leery of love.
      - a. The spiritually battle-scared sometimes become suspicious of church members who are loving.
      - b. The mischievous feel that people only act loving when they want something.
  - B. Some in the church are guilty of misunderstanding love.
    1. Some people believe that love is getting everything they want. The first rule in raising juvenile delinquents is to give them everything they want (from anonymous article).
    2. Some people believe that love means never feeling bad.
    3. Some are of the opinion that love can come with no sacrifice.
      - a. They want to love you in the way most comfortable for them.
      - b. Note the sacrifice of God (John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:5-8).
    4. Some are convinced that saying those three words (I love you) totals our responsibility.
      - a. John 14:15
      - b. Matthew 7:21
      - c. Luke 6:46
- II. What will happen if we love one another?
  - A. Love is confusing. It's hard to understand why God did what He did for us (Ephesians 3:19).
    1. Since true love gives us what we need (instead of what we want), we may find ourselves confused at times.
    2. We might not understand why the preachers or elders are doing what they are doing.
      - a. The preacher who preachers on attendance, modesty, and any other "controversial" subject does so out of love.
      - b. Elders who visit the delinquent and make rules about faithfulness do so out of love. mention church discipline

- B. Love is active (James 1:22).
  - 1. One cannot say he loves the church while refusing to support its works.
  - 2. People who love the church should not refer to the local congregation as “them” or “they” because we are part of a team.
- C. Love says what needs to be said.
  - 1. No one accuses the doctor of being unloving when he diagnoses a disease.
  - 2. No one accuses the mechanic of being unloving when he points out engine problems.
  - 3. Why do people accuse Christians of being unloving when we point out moral and spiritual problems?

**III. What will happen if we don't love one another?**

- A. We are not born of God (v. 7).
- B. We do not know God (v. 8).
- C. His love is not perfected in us (v. 11).
- D. The world will not know that we are Christ's followers.
- E. We are a lot more like murderers than Christians (1 John 3:15).
- F. We abide in death (1 John 3:14).

**TOP TEN SERMONS THAT WILL BE AVOIDED BY LIBERAL AND RADICAL PREACHERS**

<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Radical</b>
1. Church Discipline	1. The Love of God
2. Immodest Apparel	2. The Grace of God
3. The Sinfulness of Dancing	3. The Death of Christ
4. The Sinfulness of Social Drinking	4. Where is God when I Hurt?
5. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage	5. The Fatherhood of God
6. The Sinfulness of Denominationalism	6. Providence
7. Change Agents	7. Brotherly Love
8. The Horrors of Hell	8. Heaven
9. The Sinfulness of Forsaking the Assembly	9. The Peace of God
10. The Severity of God	10. The Goodness of God

-Jason Roberts