

I John 4:7-12

- Intro.**
- What is the theme of the second portion of this epistle from 3:11 – 5:12?
 - What is the common address that commences the previous paragraph and this paragraph?
 - John used this term of endearment four times earlier in the epistle. Can you find them?
- 4:7**
- Why did John consider it necessary to encourage his readers to “love one another”?
 - because the opponents indicated that behavior was irrelevant?
 - because the defecting false-teachers were unloving?
 - because his readers were vindictive against the intrusive false-teachers?
 - What is the point that John is making when he explains that “love is from God”?
 - loving is the godly thing to do?
 - love is a heavenly characteristic?
 - love is derived from God?
 - love is the expression of God’s character?
 - Is loving God or loving others the conditional criterion for being born of God and knowing God?
 - Does John mean that everyone who loves others can inevitably be considered to be born of God and to know God?
 - Can non-Christians love others, and not be born of God and know God?
 - Could John’s statement be reversed to read, “Everyone who is born of God and knows God loves others”?
- 4:8**
- Can you explain what it means to “know God” and therefore to “not know God”?
 - Does John have someone in mind when he refers to “the one who does not love does not know God”?
 - Which of the following would you consider to be valid explanation and interpretation of what John means when he writes, “God is love.”?
 - Love is what God does?
 - God is comprised and constituted of love?
 - Love is a characteristic or quality of God’s Being?
 - God became love in the incarnate expression of His Son, Jesus Christ?
 - Love is a gift or blessing which God gives?
 - Love is what God is?
 - God’s essential and absolute character is love?
- 4:9**
- What does it mean that “the love of God was manifested in us”?
 - evidenced for us?
 - shown to us?
 - manifested among us?
 - revealed within us?
 - The particular manifestation of God’s love was “that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world.” Is this a reference to:
 - the incarnation of God becoming flesh?
 - the redemptive mission of Jesus?
 - God’s self-revelation of Himself in the Son?
 - God’s commissioning of His Son to be the Savior of the world?
 - The purpose and result of God’s manifestation of love in His Son, Jesus, was “so that we might live through Him.” Does this mean that...
 - God gives us eternal life because of Jesus?
 - abundant life comes through Jesus?
 - Jesus is the life through which we live?

- 4:10**
- If you want to know what love is, you should...
 - consider the depth of man's love for God?
 - consider how Christians love one another?
 - consider the existential power of God's love?
 - consider the love of God manifested in sending His Son to die for us?
 - In what sense is Jesus "propitiation for our sins"?
 - He placated and appeased an angry God?
 - He took our death that we might have His life?
 - He satisfied the justice of God which demanded death for sin?
 - What are the ramifications of Jesus having been "propitiation for our sins"?
 - no further sacrifice is necessary?
 - God is completely satisfied with the "finished work" of Jesus?
 - there is no need for additional satisfaction or pleasing of God by our performance?
- 4:11**
- "God so loved us" (cf. John 3:16). Does this refer to...
 - the manner of God's manifesting His love by "giving" or "sending" His Son?
 - the intensity of God's love to send His only Son?
 - the universal extent of God's love for all men?
 - How does God's manifestation of love in His son link together with "we also ought to love one another"?
 - God's love is an example that we should imitate and follow?
 - after what God did by His love, we have an obligatory mandate to be loving?
 - we should be God-like in our love?
 - God's love expressed in Jesus leads inevitably to the expression of God's character of love in those who receive Jesus?
 - God's love incarnated in Jesus should now be enfleshed in loving expression in Christian behavior?
- 4:12**
- What does "no one has beheld God at any time" have to do with John's encouragement to "love one another"?
 - since you cannot see God you cannot see His love?
 - although the false-teachers claimed to have "seen" God mystically, John argues that they should not claim to "see" God unless God can be "seen" in them?
 - the invisible character of God is only made visible when His character of love is expressed in the behavior of His people?
 - Can we reverse John's statement and say, "If God abides in us, we will love one another"?
 - How can God's love be perfected in us?
 - Isn't His love already perfect?
 - Is His love perfected in us at regeneration?
 - Is God's love perfected in us functionally when we live in harmony and unity?
 - Is God's love brought to its intended objective when we allow His character of love to be expressed in our behavior unto His own glory?
- Conc.**
- What does "loving one another" depend on?
 - Do you think that John's statements in this passage could cause some Christians to doubt whether they were "born of God", whether they "know God", and whether "God abides in them"?