

Week 9 Study Guide - 1st John 4:7-14

Scripture

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Questions

Where does our motivation for love come from according to this text?

Have you ever doubted God's love for you? What happened?

Do you ever doubt that you have salvation? Another way to put it is do you ever feel like your not good enough to be saved? What does this scripture have to say about that?

According to verse 12 how do others see God?

Devotion

Let me tell you about three things that happened to me the past week. The first event was that my son was born! My wife woke up at 6:30 in the morning and started having contractions. We were very surprised because my first son was born almost 2 weeks late. These contractions were over a week early. We went to the hospital around 9 in the morning, and my son Sterling was born at 11:40. When I first held him I told him I **LOVED** him! The next event happened a couple days later. My parents brought my wife and I some tacos from one of our favorite Mexican places! While I was eating the tacos I said to my wife, I **LOVE** tacos. The next event happened the following day. My computer had broken about a week ago and I have had very limited access to one since then. Someone in my church gave me a computer. I was sitting at home with this new computer and said I **LOVE** wifi.

What is the common theme of all of these stories? Obviously I said I loved something. I said I loved wifi, tacos, and my new son. Love is such a generic term for us. We can say we love our kids and tacos, but do we really love inanimate objects such as tacos. I would argue that we don't. We know what love is because God has shown us through the person and work of Jesus. When we are trying to figure out what love is we need to look to Jesus. Love is God sending Jesus to be our propitiation. We can not love people by dying for their sins, but we can love

people by laying down our life for theirs. When we talk about love that is what we mean. I would not sacrifice much in my life for a taco, but I would be willing to lay my life down for my son. Through this scripture John is telling us that true love is sacrifice, and we see that perfectly in the life of Jesus.

Think - What are the things you truly love? The things you are willing to sacrifice for? Make a list of them.

Pray - Pray over that list. Ask God to give you opportunities to sacrifice for the people and things on the list.

Do - Find one way to lay down your life for each person/thing on this list this week and do it.