

2-11-2026 - 6 Reasons Series – Final week: 6 Reasons to Live in Love.

Love. Jesus showed us God's love. We should **live like love has changed us.**

1 John 4:16 – “**We know how much God loves us, & we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, & God lives in them.**”

Greek word for "know" implies a deep, personal understanding

Greek word for "believe" suggests trust and faith.

Dual aspect: knowing & believing – the Christian **journey.** Maturity.

We must both **understand & trust** in God's love. We do that little by little, year by year. That's why: Love **grows** . . . Love **deepens**. Love **even more...**

- **Our Love gets better as we learn to live in God's love . . .**
- **John was changed** by that love; lived out a life of love & wrote about it.

6 Reasons to Live in Love from 1 John 4:

1. **Love has to be demonstrated.** Words aren't enough.

- a. **1 John 4:9-10** - ⁹“**God showed** how much he loved us by sending his one & only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life thru him. ¹⁰This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us & sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”
- b. Jesus was **action + words.** He **showed** love.
- c. Greek word used here for love is "agapao" - selfless, sacrificial love. This type of love isn't **based on emotions or feelings but is an act of will**, reflecting God's love for humanity.
- d. This is love that **flows out b/c that's what's inside**, not b/c of what the other person is doing. **[God doesn't love us b/c we're good]**
- e. It's how Jesus instructed His disciples - to love one another as He loved them ([John 13:34-35](#)).
 - i. Show love – demonstrate it – just as Jesus did.
 - ii. This love is a defining characteristic of a true Christian, setting them apart from the world.

2. We can love others like that b/c God's love flows thru us

- a. **1 John 4:11** - ¹¹Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.
- b. This ties with **1 John 4:19** – “We love because He first loved us.”
- c. **Key: God lives in us...** Look back at our primary verse – **1 Jn 4:16** – “and all who live in love live in God.” **We love thru God's love.**
- d. Other translations say: “**whoever abides in love abides in God**”
 - i. Abides is a continual, enduring relationship. **It's staying put.**
Remaining steadfast in that love . . . staying close to the vine.
 - ii. Some have felt that love . . . but have drifted away from it.
 - iii. Come back home prodigal. Get reacquainted. Reconnect.

3. People See the Love of God when we Love each other.

- a. **1 John 4:12** - ¹²“No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, **God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.**”
- b. Full expression in us - the maturing part of God's love . . . it's what happens as we abide in – stay close to – God's love.
- c. Other translations **vs. 12**– “**If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.**”
- d. Doesn't mean flawlessness but the fulfillment of God's purpose in us.
- e. As we **grow in love**, we **reflect** more of God's character. It's a **lifelong process** of God refining us. Conforming us to His image. ([Rom. 8:29](#)).
- f. The **perfecting of love** is a testimony of God's **transformative power**; when we are changed, others can change. Powerful message!

4. Loving others is evidence of our Salvation – that God abides in us.

- a. **1 John 4:13** – “And God has given us his Spirit as **proof** that we live in him and he in us.”
- b. We don't have to ask for God's Spirit... but must be willing to listen.

- i. Jesus said, God's Spirit – the Advocate/voice of truth – will come to us. [**John 15:26**](#) – "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me."
- ii. Paul, like John, also said the Spirit is sent to us by God. Gal. 4:6; 2 Cor. 1:22.
- iii. [**Ezekiel 36:27**](#) – "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes . . ." Spirit is a gift, byproduct!
- c. The **Spirit is in us**, to guide us – inspire us – and **have our lives be proof of God's love**.
- d. A desire to stay close to God allows His spirit to shine thru us.
 - i. The **Spirit will always respond in love**, act in love.
 - ii. When we live in that love, **it's evidence that God abides in us**.
 - iii. On the flip side – hating someone is evid that God is not in us.

5. You can't hate someone & call yourself a Christian.

- a. [²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."](#)
- b. We are going to be wounded in life. Hating someone for that is easy.
 - i. Ex: Cain, the 1st born of Adam & Eve. He was angry & jealous.
 - ii. God said: "*sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you*"
 - iii. If we don't give those issues to God, they will control us.
- c. But this is the **part where God's love changes us**.
 - i. **God accepts us** as we are, then His love **refines us**. It transforms us & renews our mind. We're **born again**.

- ii. 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.”
- iii. Give your hurts to God, He'll give you peace & love in return.

6. **We can love others b/c Love changes us**

- a. Some people struggle to love . . . “not a people person.” Past hurts.
- b. But - ¹⁹ **We love because he first loved us.**
- c. Ever felt the love of someone . . . and it made you want to be better?
 - i. When truly touched by God’s love, it changes us.
 - ii. To be loved when we’re wrong . . . it’s powerful.
 - iii. To be loved when we fail / imperfect – it’s life changing.
 - iv. To still be loved when we’re selfish / prideful . . . transforming.
 - v. God’s love allows us to see ourselves in a new light. Then we can see others in a new light.
 - vi. **We don’t love people b/c they are good, we love b/c God is good, and He’s in us.**

Live in love. Fill every day with it. Feel the love of God, and let your light reflect it.

Next week – “Fully Known, Fully Loved”