

# All You Need is Love

---

*1 Jn 4:7-12*

## I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Valentine's Day is a day where we show love.
- B. The Beatles sang, "All you need is love."
- C. John was known as the "Apostle of love"; tradition says that John told those in Ephesus—where he had retired—to love one another each Lord's day.
- D. There are some things that we need to learn about love:

## II. GOD IS LOVE, vv 7-8.

- A. Love comes from God.
  - 1. We are made in the image of God (Gn 1:26).
  - 2. Part of our being in the image of God is our capacity to love.
- B. God is love.
  - 1. Love defines God's character.
  - 2. God loves us so much that he could be described as love.
- C. God is not evil.
  - 1. The idea of many is that God is completely evil.
  - 2. The Scriptures affirm, however, that God is love.
    - a. Rm 5:5.
    - b. 2 Cor 13:11.

## III. GOD ACTS IN LOVE, vv 9-10.

- A. God shows us love; it was revealed among us.
- B. He sent Jesus:
  - 1. In order that we might live through him (Jn 3:17).
  - 2. In order that he could atone for our sins.
    - a. The idea of a propitiation is that which atones for sins.
    - b. Jesus came into the world that he might take our sins away (Jn 1:29).
- C. He did this before we loved him (Rm 5:8).
  - 1. It is easy to love someone who loves you.
  - 2. Yet, it is difficult to love someone who does not love you (cf. Mt 5:46).
  - 3. God did the more difficult thing of loving us before we loved him.

## IV. GOD EXPECTS ME TO ACT IN LOVE, vv 11-12.

- A. True love is not a feeling; it's an action.
  - 1. Because God loved me, he did something.
  - 2. If we are to love, we must act in love (1 Jn 3:17-18).
- B. God expects me to act in love, v 11.
  - 1. We need to show our love.
  - 2. We can show love by:
    - a. Being with those who hurt.
    - b. Writing cards to those who hurt.
- C. In order to have fellowship with God, I must love, vv 7-8.
  - 1. Loving each other sets us apart from the rest of the world (Jn 13:34-35).
  - 2. 1 Jn 4:20-21.
- D. God lives in those who love, v 12. Augustine said, "He who is filled with love is filled with God himself."
- E. Those who love do not need to fear the judgment (1 Jn 4:17-18). This makes love a measuring stick of Christian character.