

Leader

1 John 4:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

Cong.

1 John 4:7-9 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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.

Leader

1John 4:10-12 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Cong.

1 John 4:13-16 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

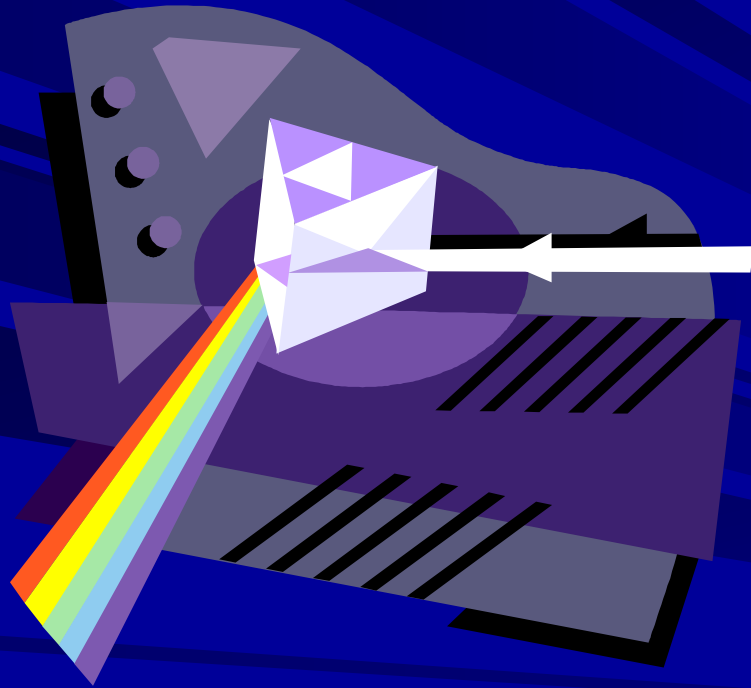


Loving by Receiving God's Love  
1 John 4:7-16

Theme: You can learn to love others by believing God's love for you and acting on the power of Christ's atonement.



God's Love is a key attribute



## Love Proves Birth (4:7,8)

- Reasons we should love:
  - Love is of God
  - It proves we're born of God
  - It proves we know God
  - Not loving proves we don't love Him
  - God is love
- What does "God is love" mean? That He "gives us a place in His life & does right by us."

# Death Proves Love (4:9-11)

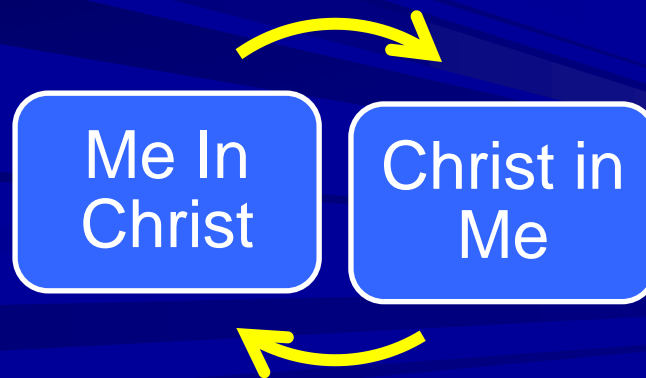
- How do I know He loves **me**?
- “By *this* the love of God was manifested...”
  - He sent His Son into the world
  - His goal was to give life
  - His means was propitiation

## Death Proves Love (4:9-11)

- The **need**: God's natural response to sin is holy anger
- The **result**: God's love provided the covering. Anger & love work to enable His delight in us.
- You can love others with godly love because God caused your sin & theirs to come down on Christ. Who are you to withhold the love God offers us?

# Love Proves love is maturing (4:12,13)

- “But I can’t see God!”
- If we love we show:
  - God abides in us
  - His love is being perfected in us, reaching maturity.
- The Holy Spirit is the one who directs & confirms all this.



# Testifying & Trusting 4:14-16

- **Testify**: Father sent Son to be Savior of world
- **Trust**: I **believe** God loves me.
  - I **receive** it and pass it on to others
- The Trinity is involved in convincing me of His love & maturing me in showing it

