



11 OCTOBER 2026 PM

1 John 4:7-10

TRIBE-16

= a close-knit community with shared identity

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:7-8

INTRODUCTION

A DISTINCTIVE TRAIT 4:7-10

- throughout his letter, John is concerned with believers and their love for one another

he used the word 29x

in chapter one, John was concerned with our fellowship in the family of God

in chapters 2-3, John directed us to our responsibilities in the family of God

in chapter 4, John now gets down to the foundation of it all...the LOVE OF GOD

- defining love

[Webster's] affection arising out of kinship, desire, or admiration

[biblical] commitment to another's well-being without regards of their worthiness

in the Greek language, there are three words translated as love:

eros : love born out of lust or desire

phileo: brotherly love

agape: divine love

this word is never found in classical Greek works

1. THE REPUTATION OF GOD'S LOVE

verses 8, 16 God is love

for many, believers and non-believers alike, this is the be-all and end-all of God's existence...since He is love, they reason, they are free to do as they please and God will love them unconditionally

WHEN THIS WAS SAID

this truth has been there all along

in creation and the fall of man

His dealings with Israel **Deuteronomy 7:7**

the plan of salvation, the church, etc.

but the fact is not stated until near the end of the Bible

we have the truth that God is holy, just, omnipotent, etc.

but John waits until the end of the Word to reveal this truth: God **IS** love

perhaps because we could not handle this truth until now???

WHAT THIS STATEMENT MEANS

we must define our term

*commitment to another's well-being
without regards of their worthiness*

we must understand the difference between *needs* and *wants*

we want money, but being poor in the spirit is what we need **Mt 5:3 1 Tim 6:9**

we want happiness, but we need to learn contentment **1 Timothy 6:6**

2. THE RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

verses 7-8 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

WE SHOULD LOVE, TOO

let us love one another...

verses 7, 11, 12, 21

again, John used the word *agape*

*commitment to another's well-being
without regards of their worthiness*

WE SHOULD BE IMITATORS

since God's nature is love, as His children,
we should share in that divine nature

2 Peter 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Romans 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

shed abroad = poured out; to gush

just as a compass points north, in responding to the earth's magnetic field, we should point to the love of God in response to our nature as God's children

love is the first indicator we are saved

John 13:35 by this shall all men know...

Ephesians 5:1-2 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

3. THE REASON FOR GOD'S LOVE

verses 9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

NOTE: love is not a two-way street

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

before Christ came, we did not have life

John 10:10

Matthew 7:14 strait...leadeth to life

...his only begotten Son

this phrase is used **5x** in the NT

four times it is used by John

John 1:18 (3:16, 18) here

in **Hebrews 11:17**, it is used to refer to Abraham and his son, Isaac

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son...

Isaac was *not* Abraham's only child

Ishmael and sons of Keturah

a begotten son is one who has a miraculous, unique relationship in which no other son could ever share

we ARE the sons of God **3:2**

but not ONLY BEGOTTEN sons

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..⁴

THAT HE MIGHT BE SATISFIED

propitiation = to turn away wrath
by making an offering

consider some amazing thoughts:

Romans 5:6-8

Ephesians 2:3-5

Colossians 1:21

notice, God is never said to be reconciled to us...
we need to be reconciled to Him

herein is love...INDEED

verse 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also
to love one another.