

Another Call to Love One Another (vv. 7-8)

VERSE 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone

who is born of God knows God (Αγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους, ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστίν, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν [*adj.voc.m.p. agapetos + pres.act.subj.1p. agapao + pro.acc.m.p. allelon + conj hoti + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. agape love + prep ek + d.a.w/noun abl.m.s. theos + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + conj kai + adj.nom.m.s. pas + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. agapao + prep ek + d.a.w/noun abl.m.s. theos + pf.pass.ind.3s. gennaō be born + conj kai + pres.act.ind.3s. ginosko + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos*]).

VERSE 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love (ὁ μὴ

ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν, ὅτι ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν [*d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. agapao + neg me + neg ouk + aor.act.ind.3s. ginosko know + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos + conj hoti + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + conj hoti for + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + noun nom.f.s. agape + pres.act.ind.3s.eimi*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 7-8

1. John returns to the subject that believers are to love one another (cf. 3:11, 23 and 4:11, 12; 2 Jn. 1:5).
2. “Beloved” can be taken to mean John’s pastoral love for his children in the faith and for the fact that they are beloved of God.
3. John again connects love with the new birth. (cf. 3:1).
4. The logic behind the command to love one another is “love is from God” and all who are born again “love and knows God.”
5. God is the source behind all true love.
6. Since perfect love is from God we as His children are to imitate that love in our relationship to believers.
7. We cannot accomplish this if we are not in fellowship and if we are walking in the truth so we know how to act in any given situation.
8. God’s love for us is manifested in His willingness to provide salvation by offering up His beloved Son on our behalf.
9. In fact, God loves the entire cosmos (Jn. 3:16).
10. Love is a divine attribute (v. 8b).
11. All who believe in Christ have demonstrated love for God.

12. Those in a state of unbelief manifest hate.
13. Everyone born of God has demonstrated love for God at least once (3:11).
14. Also, the one who has demonstrated love for God by respecting the imperative to believe in Christ knows God.
15. And God knows those that are His (2 Tim. 2:19; Jn. 10:27; 17:3).
16. On the other hand, the one who does not love does not know God.
17. This means that there is no relationship with God whatsoever.
18. It is through the Son of God that a person comes to love and know God.
19. As with righteousness, so it goes with love (see 2:29; 3:7, 10).
20. Faith in Christ is both an act of love and an act of righteousness.
21. The unbeliever in a state of unbelief is guilty of murder (cf. 3:15b).
22. The believer who hates a fellow believer is a murderer (3:15a).

The Manifestation of God's Love (vv. 9-10)

VERSE 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only

[uniquely] begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him (ἐν τούτῳ

ἐφανερώθη ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ἡμῖν, ὅτι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἀπέσταλκεν ὁ θεὸς εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἵνα ζήσωμεν δι' αὐτοῦ [*prep en + demonstr.pro.dat.nt.s. houtos this + aor.pass.ind.3s. phaneroo manifest, reveal + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. agape + d.a.w/gen.m.s. theos + prep en + pro.loc.p. ego + conj hote +d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. huios son + d.a.w/adj.acc.m.s. monogenes unique + pf.act.ind.3s. apostello send + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + prep eis + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. kosmos + conj hina so that + aor.act.subj.1p. zao live + prep dia through + pro.gen.m.s. autos*]).

VERSE 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His

Son to be the propitiation for our sins (ἐν τούτῳ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀγάπη, οὐχ ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεόν ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς καὶ ἀπέστειλεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἰλασμὸν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν. [*prep en + demonstr.pro.instr.;nt.s. houtos "In/By this" + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. agape love + neg ouk + conj hoti that + pf.act.ind.1p. agapao + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos + conj alla but + conj hoti + pro.nom.m.s. autos + aor.act.ind.3s. agapao + pro.acc.m.p. ego + conj kai + aor.act.ind.3s. apostello send + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. huios son + noun acc.m.s. hilasmos propitiation + prep peri for + d.a.w/noun gen.f.p. hamartia sin + pro.gen.p. ego*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 9-10

1. God's love was manifested in us through gospel hearing.
2. The basic fact regarding the overriding reason God sent His Son into the world was to resolve the sin issue that separated us from God.
3. John presents in v. 9 the benefit coming to believer as the imputation of life, that is, eternal life through God's Son.
4. God's Son is referred to here as His uniquely begotten Son.
5. This designation is almost certainly a deliberate reference to Jn. 3:16.
6. This adjective references the virgin birth and the resultant hypostatic union.
7. It occurs also in these verses in the NT in connection with Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18).
8. It is used simply of an only child (Lk, 7:12; 8:42; 9:38); and in a special sense in Heb. 11:17.
9. The salvation adjustment overcomes spiritual death with the gift of eternal life to all who believe in God's Son.
10. In v. 10 John draws our attention to the magnitude of God's love by contrasting it with the fact that God's love was not predicated on any love we had for God.
11. In our pre-salvation state we most definitely did not love God.
12. God made a supreme sacrifice based on His perfect attribute of love (+L).
13. God loved us when we were in a state of hostility towards Him (cf. Rom. 8:5, 10; Col. 1:21-22; 1 Jn. 4:19).
14. God's love did not take into consideration our hostility and sinful ways.
15. He sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins that separated us from His perfect righteousness.
16. We do not see this kind of love in the cosmos where individuals sacrifice what is dearest to them for their avowed enemies.
17. His motivation is His attribute of love.

18. What Jesus went through during the three hours of darkness removed the barrier to providing us with forgiveness and eternal life.
19. Jesus who was sinless became the object of divine wrath bearing all the sins of all mankind.
20. For His sacrifice Jesus was granted a name that is above every name and heir of all things.
21. Now the only barrier between God and His enemies (unsaved) is attitude towards His Son.

Motivation to Love One Another (vv. 11-12)

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

(Ἀγαπητοί, εἰ οὕτως ὁ θεὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ἡμεῖς ὀφείλομεν ἀλλήλους ἀγαπᾶν. [*adj.voc.m.p. agapetos + part ei if + adv. houto in this was; "so" + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + aor.act.ind.3s. agapao + pro.acc.m.p. ego + conj kai also + pres.act.ind.1p. ophailo ought, be bound, be obligated + reciprocal pro.acc.p. allelon + pres.act.infin. agapao*]).

VERSE 12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides

in us, and His love is perfected in us (θεὸν οὐδεὶς πώποτε τεθέαται. ἐὰν ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους, ὁ θεὸς ἐν ἡμῖν μένει καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη αὐτοῦ ἐν ἡμῖν τετελειωμένη ἐστίν. [*noun nom.m.s. theos + pro.nom.m.s. oudeis no one + adv. popote ever, at any time + pf.pass.ind.3s. theaomai see, observe + part. ean if + pres.act.subj.1p. agapao + pro.acc.m.p. allelon + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + prep en + pro.loc.p. ego + pres.act.ind.3s. meno abide + conj kai + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. agape love + pro.gen.m.s. autos his + prep en + pro.loc.p. ego + pf.pass.part.nom.f.s. teleioo make perfect + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 11-12

1. If God has done the above and beyond for us, the least we can do is manifest the same love toward each other (v. 11)!
2. This is our obligation towards other believers.
3. John restates the fact that God who is love is invisible (Jn. 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16).
4. Fellow believers are visible so how can we love the One who is invisible if we do not love those we can see?
5. If we love one another then we prove that God abides in us through the Spirit He has given us.
6. We love God to the extent that we love one another.

7. We began our path to divine love when we first believed in Christ for salvation.
8. Not only did we demonstrate love for God but we demonstrated love for all who were His children.
9. “If we love one another” (3rd class) we demonstrate that “God abides in us.”
10. Furthermore, if we stay positive and keep His commandments “His love is perfected in us.”
11. When a believer is in fellowship applying doctrine towards other believers “love is perfected” in him.
12. Hence, the command to walk in love (Eph. 5:2).