

3f - God Is Love

Read 1 John 4:7-5:5

Why are we so infatuated with love? It dominates our songs, poems, movies, and novels. We value it above every virtue. We long to find it and fight to keep it. Everyone has an opinion about it, but no one seems to have enough of it. How can we explain our insatiable appetite for love?

Love is central to the Apostle John's first letter. He helps us to understand its source, its nature and its significance for our lives as Christians. Most importantly, John enables us to see what the often-quoted statement "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16) really means.



1. Why do you think love dominates music, movies, literature and so many other aspects of our lives?
2. Read 1 John 4:7-5:5. Children usually resemble their parents. How does this principle relate to those who claim to be God's children (1 John 4:7-8)?
3. Does this mean that everyone who loves is God's child, regardless of his or her beliefs? Explain.
4. What does John mean when he says, "God is love" (1 John 4:8)?
5. How does 1 John 4:9-10 emphasize the nature and depth of God's love?

6. "Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11). In what small or large ways can we sacrificially love each other?

7. How does our love for each other make the invisible God visible (1 John 4:12)?

8. In 1 John 4:13-16, what tests does John give us for determining whether "we live in Him and He in us"?

9. If our lives are characterized by love, why can we be confident rather than fearful on the Day of Judgment (1 John 4:17-18)?

10. It certainly *seems* possible that we could love God and yet hate one of our brothers and sisters. According to John, why is this impossible (1 John 4:19-21)? Explain.

11. If someone is really born of God, what will be true of that person (1 John 5:1-5)?

12. If some of these things are not true, does that mean a person is not a Christian? Explain.

13. How has this passage deepened your understanding of God, the children of God and love itself?