



How Love Really Is All You Need!

Today we begin a summer study of the book of First John in the Bible! The theme: as we understand the truth about God’s love for us, we will be changed into lovers of others.

The Author: The Apostle John

- Wrote more books of the New Testament than anyone except Paul
- Outlived all the other Apostles
- Nickname: “The Apostle of _____”
- Used “love” more than any other Bible writer (80 times! _____ times in 1 John alone!)
- But his first nickname was “Son of _____”!
- Lesson: My _____ are not _____! I can _____!

The Key Word: _____

The problem: Love is so hard to define! So how do we know what real love is?

The Key Verse:

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16

4 life-changing truths about love from this verse:

1. Real Love _____

*“This is how we know what **love** is...”*

3 Biblical words for love:

Eros:

Philia:

Agape:

2. Real Love _____

*“...Jesus Christ **laid down His life...**”*

3. Real Love _____

*“...laid down **His life for us...**”*

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10

4. Real Love _____

*“...And **we ought to lay down our lives** for our brothers.”*

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

Four results of living in this kind of love:

4 times in this book, John uses the phrase “we write this so that...”

• Refreshed _____

*“We write this so that our **joy** may be complete.” 1 John 1:4*

• Released _____

*“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will **not sin**. But if anybody **does sin**, we have one who speaks to the Father **in our defense** --Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” 1 John 2:1*

• Reclarified _____

*“I am writing these things to you about those who are **trying to lead you astray**.” 1 John 2:26*

• Renewed _____

*“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know** that you have eternal life. This is the **confidence** we have in approaching God...” 1 John 5:13*

According to St. Jerome, one phrase was constantly on John’s lips as an old man: “My little children, love one another.” Asked why he always said this, he replied: “It is the Lord’s command, and if this alone be done, it is enough.”

Daily Meditations

Here’s a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today’s topic! Write your answers on another piece of paper this week.

This week’s memory verse:

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” 1 John 3:16

Monday

Look over the notes and verses from this past weekend. Write down something new that you learned about the book of 1 John or the apostle John himself. Try to skim through the whole book of 1 John this week, and write down any initial observations.

Read 1 John 3:16. Think about someone you know who demonstrates this type of love. What do you see in their life that you would like emulate?

Thank God today for His love for you. Ask Him to help you grow in loving others.

Tuesday

Read Romans 13:10, 1 Cor. 13:4-7 & 1 John 3:16. According to these verses, what is love?

What does it mean to prize or cherish someone?

How does it encourage you to know that God prizes you and cherishes you?
How have you felt that in your life?

Thank God today that he cherishes and prizes you. Ask Him to help you believe that! Pray that you will show that same type of love to those in your life.

Wednesday

Read Isaiah 43:1-2, John 10:14-18 & Eph. 1:4-8. What did God through Jesus choose to do for you?

How has His choice to love you changed your life?

Write down the name of one person you want to choose to love and pray specifically for that relationship today.

Thank God for choosing to love you. Talk to Him about your struggles choosing to love others. Ask Him for His strength and help. Pray that the abundance of love He has shown you will overflow to those around you.

Thursday

Read Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:6-8 & 1 John 4:10.

Think about this week. What has been your life response to God's sacrifice for you?

How does sacrificial love impact a relationship? How can you demonstrate that kind of love today?

Thank God today for His amazing sacrificial love for you. Pray that your life will be a thank offering to Him. Ask Him to give you a willingness to love sacrificially.

Friday

Read 1 John 4:19. Think back over the last year of your life. How has God's love transformed you?

How could your demonstration of real love transform your relationships?

Thank God for His transforming power. Pray that you'll love Him and others in the same way.

Saturday

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of this week's verse. Pray for the ministry this weekend! Thanks!