

# The “Love” of First John

1 John 4:7-21

## Introduction:

- A. Love has different meanings:
  - 1. English: context determines meaning.
  - 2. Greek: Word and context determines meaning: Agape, Philos, Eris.
- B. Love (agape) is a deep sense of loyalty.
  - 1. Love of the mind, make up mind to love.
  - 2. Love that seeks welfare and interests of object above self.
- C. Four aspects of this love in 1<sup>st</sup> John.

## Discussion:

### I. The Author of Our Love - God (4:7)

- A. “God is love” – part of his very nature (4:8, 16).
  - 1. Does not cancel his judgment (4:17; cf. 2 Pet . 3:9-12).
  - 2. Love is one of many attributes (1:5; cf. Heb. 12:29)
- B. God shows love (3:1; 16; 4:9-10, 19).
- C. God commands love (3:11, 22-24).

### II. The Objects of Our Love.

- A. God above all others (4:19; cf. Mt. 22:36-40).
- B. Our brethren (2:10; 3:10, 14).
  - 1. Do we gossip about those we really love?
  - 2. Do we wilfully hurt those we really love?
  - 3. Do we easily give up on those we love?
- C. All men (1 Thess. 3:12)
- D. Not the world (2:15; James 4:4)

### III. The Evidence of Our Love.

- A. For God.
  - 1. Obedience (2:5; 5:3)
  - 2. Love brethren (3:16-18; 4:20,21)
- B. For brethren.
  - 1. Obeying God (5:1,2)
  - 2. Correction when needed (Jas. 5:19-20).
- C. For all men (Mark 16:15-16).

### IV. The Fruit of Our Love.

- A. Less fear (1 John 4:17-18).
- B. Confidence in day of Judgment.

## Conclusion:

- A. Would you like to know that you love God and his children?
- B. Would you like to arise above fear of being lost?
- C. Would you not obey him today?