

*v7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. v8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. v9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. v10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. v11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. v12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. v13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. v14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. v15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. v16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. v17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. v18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. v19 We love because he first loved us. v20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. v21 And he has given us this command: **Whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:7-21***

If the elections of this last week have taught us anything, it is this. WE ARE A DIVIDED NATION.

The next few weeks in our country are going to display a lot about who we are as a country. Now that the vote is cast, and the hard work of TRULY having to work for the LOVE OF THE COUNTRY needs to be displayed, just what will surface?

Will we have a Government that pits one group against another? Or will we have a Government that works for NATIONAL UNITY?

Rather than focusing on the division exposed by the elections, today I want to focus on:

## **THE GLORY OF GOD'S LOVE**

### **I FIRSTLY, THE LOVE OF GOD IS GLORIOUS, because OF THE CHARACTER OF THAT LOVE.**

**1. God's LOVE FLOWS FROM GOD!** Verse 7 says, *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.* Any form of true love can only come from God as Satan will cause all others to HATE

*Matthew 10:21-22 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. v22 All men will hate you because of me, ..."*

**2. God's LOVE HAS ITS SOURCE IN GOD!** Verse 8 says, *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* There are not many verses that define the nature of God in absolute terms using the word "IS".

*Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD your **God is a consuming fire**, a jealous God.*

*Psalms 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our **God is holy**.*

*John 4:24 **God is spirit**, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

*Titus 1:2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which **God, who does not lie**, promised before the beginning of time,*

**3. God's LOVE IS DEMONSTRATIVE!** Verse 9 says, *This is **how God showed his love** among us.* God does not only talk about love, HE DEMONSTRATES his love for us.

*Romans 5:8 **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:** While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**4. God's LOVE TAKES THE INITIATIVE!** Verse 10 says, *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us .* God does not wait for us to make the first move.

*Ephesians 1:4-5 For he **chose us in him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love** v5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--*

**5. God's LOVE COMPELS US!** Verse 11 says, *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* The word "OUGHT" has two meanings.

- a. Used to indicate something that is **probable**. "Five minutes OUGHT to be enough time" or "I OUGHT to go on diet".
- b. Used to indicate **duty or correctness**. "A criminal OUGHT to obey the law".

The GREEK word for "OUGHT" means "TO OWE" - like "I OWE A DEBT AND SHOULD REPAY".

**6. God's LOVE EXPANDS!** Verse 12 says, *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.* There are certain things that, THE MORE YOU EXERCISE THEM, the BIGGER the get. Like muscles or studying.

*Ecclesiastes 7:19 Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city.*

## **II SECONDLY, THE LOVE OF GOD IS GLORIOUS, because OF THE DISPLAY OF THAT LOVE.**

**1. God's LOVE IS DISPLAYED IN JESUS!** Verse 9 says *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* There is no greater demonstration of love than giving someone something that is most precious to you.

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son....."*

## **2. God's LOVE IS DISPLAYED BY PAYING THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR US!**

Verse 10 says, *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* The wonder of God's LOVE is seen in his HOLINESS. His HOLINESS demands that sin be punished, but His HOLY LOVE offers to pay the penalty.

*Romans 3:25-26 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- v26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

## **3. God's LOVE IS DISPLAYED BY GIVING US THE CAPACITY TO LOVE**

**OTHERS!** Verse 11-16 says, *v11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. v12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. v13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. v14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. v15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. v16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

Every time any of us DEMONSTRATES love for others, A MIRACLE occurs. The normal human nature is SELF-CENTERED. The Apostle Paul describes it in:

*Romans 7:18-20 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. v19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. v20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

Any capacity to DEMONSTRATES love for others is A MIRACLE.  
IT IS GOD WORKING THROUGH US.

## **III THIRDLY, THE LOVE OF GOD IS GLORIOUS, because OF THE EFFECT OF THAT LOVE.**

**1. God's LOVE EFFECTIVELY GIVES US CONFIDENCE!** Verse 17 says "In this way, love is made complete among us so that ***we will have confidence on the day of judgment***, because in this world we are like him." We have no concern about the future because of God's LOVE.

*2 Corinthians 4:14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

**2. God's LOVE EFFECTIVELY DRIVES OUT FEAR!** Verse 18 says, *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.* For the true Christian, there is no fear for anything. Jesus Said

*Luke 12:4-5 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. v5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.*

Paul writes in

*2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

- 3. God's LOVE EFFECTIVELY GROWS HIS CHURCH!** Verse 19-21 says, *v19 We love because he first loved us. v20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. v21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

There is no room for HATRED in the CHURCH. The word for HATRED is the GREEK is "MISOS" and can also mean "LOVE LESS".

### **CONCLUSION**

**WILL WE DEMONSTRATE THE LOVE OF GOD  
OR THE LOVE OF SELF?**