



## Rice Memorial MBC

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### **The Source of All Love**

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus - **March 5, 2017**

## **1 John 4:7-19**

**Introduction:** John's readers had to face an early form of HERESY (erroneous belief in regard to, some fundamental religious doctrine or truth) called **Gnosticism**. This error, which held that **spirit** was **good** but **matter** was **evil**, taught falsehoods about the Person of Christ. Gnostics denied his humanity because they believed a **human body** would have **contaminated** Him.

Another Gnostic error was a lack of love. Believing that they possessed a superior knowledge, they set themselves apart as an ELITE class and **despised (HATED)** all others. **Gnostics** believed it was their **knowledge** that gave them a special relationship with the God of PURE spirit. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series*)

**1 John 1:5-10**, This then is the **MESSAGE** which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is LIGHT**, and **IN** him is **NO darkness** at ALL. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and **walk (live [EXIST]) IN darkness**, we **lie**, and do NOT the **truth**: but if we **walk (LIVE [EXIST]) IN the light**, as he is **IN** the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin. If we say that we have NO SIN, we deceive ourselves, and the **TRUTH is NOT IN us**.

**Thought 1.** The THREE main points of these verses ARE: God is "LIGHT." If we LIVE/EXIST in darkness (the old SIN NATURE: human nature, the FLESH) with which we were BORN, and say we have fellowship with God, we LIE. This is because scripture says we were born SINNERS with the "sin nature from Satan", because of Adam's SIN. And lastly, "for THAT, ALL have SINNED." except for Jesus, who was born of God.

**Romans 5:12**, Wherefore, as by **ONE man SIN entered** into the **world**, and **DEATH** by sin; and so **death** passed upon ALL men, **for THAT ALL have sinned...**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **FORGIVE us** our sins, and to **CLEANSE** us from ALL unrighteousness. If we say that we have NOT sinned, we make (appoint [assign]) him **a liar**, and **his WORD** is NOT **IN us**.

**Thought 2.** God's WORD says ALL born from Adam's SEED "have sinned." People who hear the gospel and accept this truth, believe on Jesus, and have his word IN them! Any who don't believe, assign him "a liar" and do NOT have his word IN them.

**1 John 4:1-6**, Beloved, believe NOT every **spirit**, but **TRY (examine)** the spirits whether they are of God: because many **false prophets** are gone out into the world. Hereby **know ye** the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **confesseth (assent [agree])** that Jesus Christ is come in **the flesh (BODY)** is OF God: And every spirit that confesseth NOT that Jesus Christ is come in the **flesh** is NOT of God: and this is that **spirit of antichrist (opponent of the Messiah)**, whereof

ye have heard that it should come; and even now ALREADY is it IN the world. Ye are of God, little children, and **have OVERCOME them:** because **greater is HE** that is **IN you**, than he that is **IN the world**. They are OF the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the **world** heareth them. We are OF God: he that knoweth God heareth US; he that is NOT of God heareth NOT us. Hereby **know we** the **spirit of truth**, and the **spirit of error**.

**NOTE: Ye have overcome ...** This ought to be understood as a statement of fact. "By refusing to listen to the false teachers, the sheep have overcome them, conquered them... **He that is IN the world ...** is a reference to **the devil**, "the prince of this world." It also includes the meaning that the indwelling God in Christian hearts is greater than any particular advocate of Satan's teaching.

**He that is in you ...** This is a clear reference to the fact of **God indwelling**, or **being "IN"** Christians, a truth which is no different in any manner from Christ or the Holy Spirit dwelling in them.

**And the world heareth them ...** This is not surprising. "These **false teachers** speak from the same principle, wisdom, and spirit of the world; and, of consequence, the world approvingly **HEARS** them."

**We are of God ... us ...** The blunt point of this verse is: that IF the **false teachers do NOT agree with the apostles of Christ, they are liars**. Everything that was ever advocated in the name of Christianity must pass this test. As Roberts expressed it:

Notice that John sharpens the antithesis (contrast), the **"US"** (the apostolic teachers) and the **"THEM,"** (the circle of the false teachers). They are TWO mutually exclusive groups with NO neutral ground.<sup>[22]</sup>

No private teacher could afford to say, as John said here that, "Whoever knows God **agrees** with me; and only those who are NOT of God **disagree** with me."

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:7, Beloved, let US LOVE one another...**

**Love defined 25, agapao pronounced: ag-ap-ah'-o; to love (in a SOCIAL or MORAL sense).**

SOCIAL, relating to men (people) living in society; as social interests or concerns; social pleasures; social benefits; social happiness; **social DUTIES**.

**True SELF-LOVE** and SOCIAL are the same.

MORAL, In general, moral denotes something which respects the conduct of men (people) and their relations as social beings whose actions have a bearing on each other's RIGHTS and HAPPINESS, and are therefore RIGHT or WRONG, virtuous or vicious; as moral views; moral justice; **MORAL obligations**.

**1 John 4:7 ...for LOVE is OF (from) God (the supreme [Highest] Divinity)...**

**Love defined 26, noun, agape pronounced: ag-ah'-pay: LOVE, i.e. affection or BENEVOLENCE; a love-feast.**

Benevolence, the disposition (frame of mind) to DO GOOD; kindness; the love of mankind, accompanied with a DESIRE to promote their happiness.

**1 John 4:7 ...and every one that LOVETH (in a social or moral sense) is BORN of God (the supreme [Highest] Divinity), and knoweth God.**

**NOTE: And everyone that loveth, is born of God** - Is a regenerated man. That is, everyone who has **true love TO CHRISTIANS** as such, or **true brotherly love**, is a TRUE CHRISTIAN. This cannot mean that everyone that loves his wife and children, his classmate, his partner in business, or his friend - his house, or his farms, or his horses, or his hounds, is a child of God; **it must be understood as referring to the POINT under discussion**. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 2:9**, He that saith he is **IN** the **light** and **hateth** his brother, is **IN darkness** even until NOW.

**Thought 1.** John is making it plain that people that SAY that they have achieved spiritual Enlightenment: having LIFE, and yet HATE believers in Jesus: Christians “in general” are still living IN darkness! However, the people that have been born again possess LIFE and a real spiritual understanding and do NOT HATE Christians, as a family. This is the crucial point that John is making! Gnostics hated Christians, as a WHOLE! But, believed they were OF God: in his family! This is why John was inspired to reason as did to reveal truth.

**1 John 2:11**, But he that **Hateth his brother** is **IN darkness**, and **walketh (live [exist])** in darkness, and knoweth NOT whither he goeth, because that **darkness** hath **blinded** (deprived of discernment [insight]) **his eyes**.

**1 John 3:13-14**, Marvel NOT, my brethren, if (since) the **world HATE you**. We know that we have passed from **DEATH** unto **LIFE**, because we **LOVE** the **brethren**.

**Thought 2.** The point is believers on Jesus LOVE believers as a family. This is aside from problems “WITHIN God’s family” between a person and some other Christian. For confirmation of this truth, just look at Paul’s letters to the believers in Corinth.

**1 John 4:8**, He that **LOVETH NOT** knoweth NOT God; for **God IS LOVE**.

**NOTE:** If a man loves not the **children** of God, those that are born of him, he does NOT know, so as to love God, the Father of them; for to pretend love to God, the begetter of them, whom he sees not, and NOT **LOVE those** who are begotten by him, and are visible objects of respect, is a contradiction, and cannot be reconciled: see 1 John 4:20.  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/1-john-4.html>)

**NOTE: For God is love** - He is not merely **benevolent**, he **IS benevolence itself**. Compare the notes at 2 Corinthians 13:11. Never was a more important declaration made than this; never was more meaning crowded into a few words than in this short sentence - “**God is love.**” (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:9**, In this was **manifested** the **LOVE** of God toward us, because that God **SENT** his **ONLY begotten Son** into the world, that **WE** might **LIVE** (be quickened [**MADE ALIVE**], nourished, and actuated by **FAITH**) **through HIM**.

**NOTE: ...manifested the love of God** - The mission of Jesus Christ was the fullest **PROOF** that God could give, or that man could receive, of his infinite **LOVE to the world**.  
**That we might live through him** - The whole world was sentenced to death because of sin; and EVERY individual WAS DEAD IN trespasses and sins; and Jesus came to **DIE** in the stead of the world, and to quicken every believer, that all might live to him who died for them and rose again.  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:10**, Herein is **LOVE**, NOT that **we loved God**, but that **he LOVED us**, and **sent** his Son to be the **propitiation (atonement)** [expiation (the act of making satisfaction for an offense by which the guilt is done away and the obligation of the offended person to punish the crime is canceled)] **for OUR sins**.

**NOTE: Not that we loved God** - And that he was thereby induced to give his Son to be a propitiation for our sins. No: we were **ENEMIES** to **God**, and yet **Christ died** for our **ungodly** souls. (See Romans 5:6-11, and the notes there.) So it was God's love, not our **MERIT**, that induced him to devise means that his banished might NOT be expelled from him. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:11**, Beloved, if (SINCE) God so **LOVED us**, **we OUGHT** also to **LOVE one another**.

**NOTE:** In this chapter, John repeated over and over again many of the closely related topics he had already mentioned, each time going a little further, giving a slightly different antithesis (contrast), stressing a little different aspect, or urging a closer attention, - all in such a marvelous way that, at last, his meaning becomes incontrovertible (too clear to dispute). In this verse, **Christians' LOVING each other** is motivated by the overwhelming majesty of the LOVE of God himself.

**One another ...** is incapable of meaning "everybody on earth," although of course, the love of every Christian reaches out to the ends of the world, but not in the intensity commanded here. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:12**, No man hath **seen God** at any time. If we **LOVE one another**, God **dwelleth IN US**, and **his LOVE** is **PERFECTED IN us**.

**Thought 1.** This is a repeat of John's main point throughout this letter that when he says "one another", he is referring to Christians as a "family": the household of faith. Gal. 6:10

**NOTE:** The **warning** in this verse to the effect that the revelation of God is available to people only IN Christ is widely needed. All such things as **astrology**, **spiritism**, **witchcraft** and **Satanism** are basically ways of finding a so-called "reality" apart from Biblical revelation. This apostolic injunction states unequivocally that there is **NOTHING** out there which might enlighten or bless people. The **true** revelation has already been given through people who is "the way, the truth, and the life." Despite this basic truth, the spectacle of a high ranking ecclesiastic losing his life in a desert while trying to communicate with spirits, only recently, was spread on the pages of the newspapers. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 3:23-24**, And this is his commandment, That we should **believe** on the **name (authority)** of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE one another**, as (like) he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments **dwelleth IN him**, and he **IN him**. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

**John 13:34**, A new commandment I give unto you, that ye **LOVE one another**; AS (like) I have **LOVED** you, that ye also **LOVE** one another.

**1 John 4:13**, Hereby know we that **WE dwell IN him**, and **HE IN us**, because he hath **GIVEN US** of **HIS Spirit**.

**NOTE:** One would think that to speak of God dwelling IN us, and we IN him, were to use words too high for **mortals**, had not God gone before us therein. ...But this mutual inhabitation we KNOW, says the apostle, because he hath **given us** of **his spirit**; he has lodged the image and fruit of his Spirit in our hearts, and the Spirit that he hath given us appears to be his, or **OF him**, since it is the Spirit of power, of zeal and magnanimity (greatness of MIND) for God, of love to God and man, and of a sound mind, of an understanding well instructed in the affairs of God and religion, and his kingdom among men, 2 Tim. 1:7. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:14**, And we have **SEEN** and do **testify** that the Father **SENT** the Son to be the Saviour of **the world**.

**NOTE:** A tremendous weight of Christian truth is concentrated in this verse. **The Father sent the Son ...** The entire story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is here reduced to one line. **To be the Saviour of the world ...** The world's being lost in **sin** is implied; otherwise no Saviour would have been required.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/1-john-4.html>)

**NOTE:** Jesus Christ manifested in the flesh; see 1 John 1:1, and do testify-bear witness, in consequence of having the fullest conviction, that the Father sent the son to be the Saviour of the world. We have had the fullest proof of this from his **doctrine** and **miracles**, which we heard and saw during the whole time that he sojourned (dwell for a time) among men. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/1-john-4.html>)

**Matthew 16:15-17**, He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the **Christ**, the **SON** of the **living God**. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but **my Father** which is in heaven.

**1 John 4:15**, Whosoever shall **CONFESS** that **Jesus** is the Son of God, **God dwelleth IN him**, and he IN God.

**Confess defined 3670, covenant** (verb i.e., to enter into a formal agreement).

**NOTE:** Much stress is laid on this confession, because the false teachers **denied** the reality of the incarnation (act of taking a human body and the NATURE of man.); but this confession implied also such a **belief** IN Christ as put them in possession of his pardoning mercy and indwelling Spirit.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:16**, And we have **known** and **believed (TRUST)** the **LOVE** that God hath to us. **God is LOVE**; and he that dwelleth IN love dwelleth IN God, and God IN him.

**NOTE:** As Morris declared, "**Believing** and **knowing** the **LOVE** is certainly a very unusual expression." It is perhaps John's way of referring to one's knowing and believing the whole thesis (subject matter) and system of Christianity, which might be summed up, really, as "knowing and believing the love of God." What a beautiful way to express it!

**Abideth in love ...** is in this verse equated to "**abideth IN God**," making the expressions synonymous (expressing the same thing). It is an exercise in futility to attempt to make some kind of distinction between those and a dozen other similar expressions in the word of God. Note: It is undeniable that the New Testament teaches that Christians are **IN God**, IN Christ, IN the Holy Spirit, and IN love (in the sense of abiding in love); and at the same time the New Testament reveals that each of these: God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and love all abide, indwell, or reside **IN Christians**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 2:27**, But the **anointing** which ye have received of him **abideth IN you**, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same **anointing** TEACHETH you of ALL things, and **is TRUTH**, and is **no lie**, and even as it hath **TAUGHT you**, ye shall **abide IN HIM**.

**1 John 4:17**, Herein is our love made PERFECT, that we may have **boldness** in the day of judgment: because **AS he IS**, **SO are WE IN this world**.

**Perfect defined 5048, complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or (fig.) consummate.**

**NOTE:** Happy they who have holy boldness and assurance in the prospect of that day, who look and wait for it, and for the Judge's appearance! So do, and so may do, the **lovers of God**. **Their love to God** assures them of **God's love to them**, and consequently of the friendship of the Son of God; the more we love our friend, especially when we are sure that he knows it, the more we can **trust his love**. As God is good and loving, and faithful to his promise, so we can easily be persuaded of his love, and the happy fruits of his love, when we can say, Thou that knowest all things knowest that we love thee. And hope maketh not ashamed; our hope, conceived

by the consideration of God's love, will NOT disappoint us, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost that is given to us, Rom. 5:5 .

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:18**, There is **NO FEAR** in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear (terror)**: because fear hath **TORMENT**. He that feareth is not made **PERFECT** in love.

**NOTE:** The man who feels that he loves God with all his heart can never **dread him** as his Judge. As he is now made a partaker of his Spirit, and carries a sense of the Divine **approbation** (approval) in his conscience, he has nothing of that fear that produces **terror** or brings torment. The perfect love-that fulness of **love**, which he has received, casteth out fear-removes all terror relative to this day of judgment, for it is of this that the apostle particularly speaks.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:19**, We **LOVE HIM**, because **he FIRST** loved US.

**NOTE:** This is the foundation of **OUR LOVE to God**. 1. We love him because we find he has loved us. 2. We love him from a sense of **OBLIGATION** and **GRATITUDE**. 3. We love him from the influence of his own love; from his love shed abroad in our hearts, our love to him proceeds. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/1-john-4.html>)

**1 John 4:20-21**, If a man say, **I love God**, and **HATETH his brother**, he is a **liar**: for he that loveth **NOT his brother** whom he hath **seen**, how can he **LOVE God** whom he hath **NOT seen?** And this commandment have we from him, That **he who loveth God love his brother** also.

**NOTE:** The eye is wont to affect the heart; things **unseen** less catch the **mind**, and thereby the heart. The incomprehensibility of God very much arises from his invisibility; the member of Christ has much of God visible in him. How then shall the hater of a visible image of God pretend to love the unseen original, the invisible God himself? 2. As suitable to the express law of God, and the just reason of it: And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also, v. 21. As God has communicated his image in nature and in grace, so he would have our love to be suitably diffused. We must love God originally and supremely, and others **IN** him, on the account of their derivation and reception from him, and of his interest **IN** them. Now, our **Christian brethren** having a **NEW NATURE** and excellent privileges derived from God, and God having his interest in them as well as in us, it cannot but be a natural suitable **obligation** that **he who LOVES God** should **LOVE his brother** also.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/1-john-4.html>)

**Thought 1.** John, again stated the truth about "believers/ Christians" **LOVING** believers/Christians, as a "FAMILY."

**1 John 5:1**, Whosoever **BELIEVETH** that **Jesus** IS the **Christ** IS **BORN of God:** and every one that **LOVETH** him that begat **loveth HIM** also that is begotten of him.

**Believe defined 4100, pisteuo pronounced pist-yoo'-o ; to have FAITH in, by implication, to ENTRUST (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ).**

**1 John 5:2-5**, By this we **KNOW** that we **LOVE** the children of God, when we **LOVE God**, and **KEEP** his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we **KEEP** his commandments: and his commandments are **NOT grievous (burdensome, heavy)**.

For whatsoever is **BORN** of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that **overcometh** the world, even our FAITH. Who is he that **overcometh** the **world**, but he that **BELIEVETH** that **Jesus** is the Son of God?