



LOVE SO AMAZING

“The Majesty of God’s So Amazing Love”

2022 THEME

1 Jn. 4:7 **Beloved, let us love one another:** for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

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 through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**

A few weeks ago, we began a mini-series regarding “*The Majesty of God’s So Amazing Love*,” as found in chapter four of John’s First Epistle. The presentation of God’s love in this chapter is truly “so amazing.” Before going to the verses about His love, we observed the spiritual opposition that will be encountered. We began by considering “A SERIOUS WARNING TO CONSIDER” in 1 Jn. 4:1-6 which focused upon evil spirits and worldliness.

I. A SERIOUS WARNING TO CONSIDER, 4:1-6

A. The Wicked Spirit, 4:1-4

1. The Sobering Word, 4:1

a. The Requirement, 4:1a “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God...”

b. The Reason, 4:1b “...because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

❖ Last week we considered the “Sound Wisdom” given to us in verse 2-3.

2. The Soundest Wisdom, 4:2-3

a. What is to be Demanded by Way of Confession,

b. What is to be Disclosed by Way of Confession,

(1) What the Deceiving Spirit is Not, 4:3a “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:

(2) Why the Deceiving Spirit is Named, 4:3b-c

(a) The Spirit of Antichrist has been Predicted, 4:3b “...and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come...”

(b) The Spirit of Antichrist is now Present, 4:3c “and even now already is it in the world.”

3. The Spiritual Warfare, 4:4

a. We Are Invincible in the Struggle, 4:4a “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them...”

b. We Are Indwelled by the Spirit, 4:4b “**because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**”

❖ We then considered the second warning, not only to be wary of the wicked spirits, but to abstain from worldliness.

B. The Worldly Spirit, 4:5-6

1. The Great Divide, 4:5-6a

a. Those With Secular Interests, 4:5

b. Those With Spiritual Interests, 4:6a “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us...”

This morning, we will continue looking at “*The Majesty of God’s So Amazing Love.*” We have been warned about spiritual warfare. In spite of the confrontation of evil spirits and worldliness, we are further encouraged by the fact of the indwelling the Holy Spirit’s greatness and His empowering the believer to overcome the “god of this world” (4:4.)

Now we begin to consider “*The Majesty of God’s So Amazing Love*” more pointedly. When God’s love becomes *amazing* to believers, the response is the development of a spiritual walk that honors and glorifies Christ. In this passage, like bookends in verses 4 and 11, believers are commanded to “love one another.” Let’s learn “why.”

II. A SPIRITUAL WALK TO CONDUCT, 4:7-5:5

A. Divine Love, 4:7-10

1. The Overflow of God's Love, 4:7-8

a. Who We Should Love, 4:7

1 Jn. 4:7 **Beloved, let us love one another:** for **love is of God**; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

- ❖ God-like love originates with God.
- ❖ God-like love originates within us when we are born-again and become His children.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Phil. 2:13 For it is **God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

- ❖ God-like love for believers is a reflection of God and His method of love for mankind.
- ❖ God-like love within a believer should be motivation for loving one another.
- ❖ God-like love is reflected through us as we have fellowship with Him (*ginosko.*)

b. Why We Should Love, 4:8

1 Jn. 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love.**

- ❖ There is a correlation between love's existence and love's effectiveness.
- ❖ The uniqueness is connected to “knowing” God (*ginosko.*)
- ❖ Those lacking God-like love, simply do not know Him.
- ❖ The main reason that a believer should love – because...God is love.

2. The Object of God's Love, 4:9-10

a. The Expression of Such Love, 4:9

1 Jn. 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 through him.**

❖ The “love of God toward us” is revealed by the fact of the Incarnation.

Original Word: φανερόω

Transliteration: phaneroó;

Definition: to make visible, make clear; **Usage:** I make clear (visible, manifest), make known.

phaneróō (from *phōs*, "light") – properly, illumine, make *manifest (visible)*; (figuratively) make plain, in *open view*; to become apparent ("graspable").

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5319.htm>

- ❖ How can *finite man* comprehend *infinite God*? He condescends to man's level.
- ❖ The sending of His Son is the ultimate expression of His love for all humanity.

❖ God is NOT a “secret admirer” of mankind – He has already, vividly, demonstrated His love for every person.

Rom. 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, **when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, **being reconciled**, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but **we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.**

❖ God's revealing of love, via the cross, is to produce a unique lifestyle for believers: "...because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**"

Jn. 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come **that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Original Word: ζάω

Transliteration: zaó;

Definition: to live; **Usage:** I live, am alive.

záō – to live, experience God's gift of life.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2198.htm>

- ❖ Life lived to the fullest is a life radically changed by the new birth for a believer.
- ❖ The radical change includes God's love for us, and within us, by the power of the Holy Spirit that affects the lifestyle of a believer.

b. The Expectation of Such Love, 4:10

1 Jn. 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

- ❖ The beginning of a relationship between a believer and the Lord is initiated by God's love for sinners.
- ❖ God's redemptive work reveals His love and His sending of His Son for the purpose of procuring our forgiveness for sins – He is our propitiation for our sins.

Original Word: ἵλασμός

Transliteration: hilasmos

Short Definition: a propitiation, atoning sacrifice

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2434.htm>

1 Jn. 2:2 And **he is the propitiation for our sins:** and not for ours only, **but also for the sins of the whole world.**

❖ Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has done, is the only means by which sinners can be made righteous in the eyes of God.

Rom. 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* **by faith of Jesus Christ** **unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference:

Summary

- ❖ The Holy Spirit indwells the believers and provides knowledge that produces confidence of spiritual truth, enabling believers to live a victorious life in Christ.
- ❖ The spiritual reality includes a warning about spiritual warfare, requiring believers to test or try the spirits that are confrontational.
- ❖ Believers need to remember that overcoming spiritual bondage began at salvation and “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

- ❖ Believers need to be aware of the wiles of the devil in facing spiritual warfare, being dependent upon the Holy Spirit and His sword and fighting the fight of faith.
- ❖ Spiritual growth includes spiritual discernment between worldliness and holiness, between the “spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”
- ❖ God’s redemptive work reveals His love and His sending of His Son for the purpose of procuring our forgiveness for sins – **He is our propitiation for our sins.**
- ❖ Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has done, is the only means by which sinners can be made righteous in the eyes of God.

Conclusion

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead:**

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17 Therefore **if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature:** old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things *are* of **God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For **he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.