

- John keeps coming back to the importance of love
- John keeps grounding us in God's love for us
- Knowing God's love to us helps us love others, walk in obedience and in truth

1. **The Magnitude of God's Love v7-10**

- Some want to reject the Bible because can't see how a God of love can send people to Hell.
- But it is only in the Bible that you get the idea of a God of love
- Bible also portrays the lengths God goes to to save us
- How do you measure love?

a) **How much is it willing to give?**

- *"He sent his One and Only son"* – John highlights 'One and Only'
- *"into the world"* – sent to a hostile place
- *"that we might live"* – so that rebels could live!

b) **Who takes the first step?**

- *"Not that we loved God"* – we were happily Hellbound
- *"But that he loved us and sent"* – He took the initiative

c) **How much is a person willing to suffer to bring restoration?**

- *"He sent his son as an atoning sacrifice"* – propitiation. He took the wrath so that God could show us delight.
- Not that Father is angry and Son is loving – He (Father) loved us and Son agreed to bear wrath.

2. **The Challenge to love those God loves v11,20-21**

- God is love, therefore his children must be loving
- Ask yourself the three questions about your love to others
- v20-21 – Hard to test love for an unseen being. Much easier to test love for God's people - How do you measure?

3. **The Consequences of Displaying God's love v12-18**

- Living out the truth stabilises us
- As we grasp God's love and display it, it gives two things:

a) **An awareness of God's presence v16**

- It is one thing to be a Christian, another to know it.
- When we love God's people God makes us more aware of his love for us.

b) **A Confidence before God v17,18**

- Being grounded in God's love frees us from fear of Him
- Gives us confidence in preparation for death

4. **Love is inseparably linked to faith and obedience 5:1-5**

- Not a pick and choose Christianity
- All three hallmarks are inseparably linked
- v1 – Right belief is linked with love
 - Doctrine matters, if we love people we will love doctrine
- v2 – Love is linked to obedience
 - Disobedience isn't simply personal – it pulls others down too
- This love, belief, obedience isn't done in our strength, but by depending on Christ
- It is through him that we have the victory - Better translation - v4. *"This is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith."*
- Keep your faith focused on Christ and you will triumph in all these areas