

**Getting the Love Thing Right #8
Love Power**

Pastor Joel K. Johnson



⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. We know he is writing to those who believe that they may know they have eternal life. He wrote the gospel with the hopes that some would believe, but this to the church to know eternal life.
I John 4:7–21 ESV

Message: Love One Another

Three reasons why we should live this way—with love for one another.

#1 Because love is of the very essence of who God is. I John 4:7–8

#2 Because God has revealed His love in His Son I John 4:9–11

#3 Because we are to love people the way God loves us I John 4:11–12

Worship in Song

Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble
This I Believe
Thank You Jesus

Community Life

Offering

Rule

Message

Love Power
Pastor Joel Johnson

Closing Song

Come Ye Sinners

Recommended reading during the current message series:

August 23	Headwaters of Love	1 John 4:17–5:5
August 30	The Certainty of Love	1 John 5:6–21



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1. Read I John 4:7-21 English Standard Version (ESV)

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2. The message from this text is a call to love one another. But why? Pastor Joel gave three reasons why we should live this way - with love for one another. Review and interact with each reason:

#1 Because love is of the very essence of who God is.

I John 4:7-8

- a. To say "God is love" has become trite in today's use of that phrase. What does it mean that his essence is love as best you can discern?
- b. Pastor Joel identified a question that would likely be raised in a theology class: Is John saying in this text that any expression of human love a sign of genuine spiritual life? Yes/No? Why? Therefore loving relationship between non-Christian people, those who have no understanding of God and Christ, must be a sign of God's common grace. Define common grace.
- c. Pastor Joel talked about the four biblical statements concerning the essence of who God is. The Scriptures state that God is love. God is Spirit. God is light. God is an all-

consuming fire. The gnostics of the day could handle the latter three, but struggled to get there head around “God is love.” The point is that you cannot divorce God’s love from the other attributes of God’s essence. Today, there is a tendency to do the opposite. Some elevate “God is Love” to the degree that the other essentials of God are neglected. So some are in the habit of thinking it does not matter what life values, choices or behaviors we live or practice, because “God is love.” Do you agree? How do we combat this mindset?

#2 Because God has revealed His love in His Son

I John 4:9-10

- a. Read verses 9-10. This is what he is building up to, this is what John is saying. How is God going to express himself in our world today? The initiative lies with God. Not that we love God, it’s the reverse, that he loved us. God’s love is free, uncaused, spontaneous, and different than love we see in humanity. The love between a man and a woman is not free, uncaused or spontaneous.
- b. Read Deuteronomy 7:7-8. Why did God choose Abraham and Israel as a means to communicate his name to the world? Share with each other in your group three qualities about your best friend and what drew you to them to be your best friend. Now give one quality as to why God would be drawn to you? In your group share with each other the difference between how we choose to love each other and how God chooses to love us? How does this make you feel concerning God?

#3 Because we are to love people the way God loves us

I John 4:11-12ff

- a. Read verses 11-12. The invisible God is made visible in those who receive Him as Savior and Lord and how they love one another. In fact, God has purposed us to be the means to communicate His essence of love to others, which is best evidenced in how we love one another.
- b. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, who mediates the presence of Jesus and the love of the Father then it means his love is fully in us, ready to be released in power and beauty. The obvious question is, “why do we not better display that love toward each other? This is a vulnerable question, but what gets in the way for you fully embracing and living out this love for one another. What ideas can you share to help each other release the love of God that is already in you?