

**The Letters of John:  
Invisible Love Made Visible**

**Text:** 1 John 4:7-21

**Series Focus Point:** *The truth of God fuels right living for God. Is this truth affecting how I live? If so how and if not, why?*

**Today's Focus Point:** *The world will know (can be assured) that God exists and that He loves them when they see believers loving each other.*

**1. The Love of God**

- a. Invisibility of God's love – v.12 *"No one has ever seen God"* vv.8 & 16 *"God is love"*
  
- b. Manifestation of God's Love – v.9 *"In this is the love of God was made manifest..."*
  - Jesus came in the flesh shows not only a real person, but the love of God
  - His only Son shows the uniqueness or quality of the gift
  
- c. Means of God's Love – v.10 *"...loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation..."*
  - Death on cross took the wrath of God
  - Only way we could be forgiven and experience God's love
  
- d. Motivation of God's Love
  - He was not coerced or lonely, He loved because He is love and to show it
  
- e. Evidence of God's Love – vv.13-16
  - See it in the resurrection, witness of apostles, abiding presence of Holy Spirit
  - Allows us to confess Christ and have confidence on day of judgment

**2. The Love of the Believer**

- a. Invisibility of believer's love for God
  - We can say I love God, but can we/others see that love for God?

- b. Manifestation of believer's love for God's (expressed in loving each other) – vv.7-8; 20-21
  - Loving other believers *is* the way people know we love God
- c. Means of believer's love for God's (expressed in loving each other) – vv.9;17-18
  - Cross broke power of sin – frees us from fear so we can love each other
  - We should live this way in the world – forgiven & forgiving, loved & loving
- d. Motivation of believer's love for God's (expressed in loving each other) – vv.10;19
  - God is the source of our love and order of our love
  - No boasting
- e. Evidence of believer's love for God's (expressed in loving each other) – v.11
  - We should love each other as Christ loved us

### **3. *The Evidence of Christ-like Love***

- a. Four ways in which Christ loved us through the cross – our love should look the same
  - Willingly
  - Act of Grace
  - Act of Mercy
  - Death to self

#### ***Application:***

- How do I demonstrate this love for my: wife, husband, children, parents, fellow believers?
- Would unbelievers see my love for them as evidence of my love God?
- John 13:35, *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*