



Suggested Songs of Praise:

O Great God, Bob Kauflin

And Can It Be? Charles Wesley

Constrained by Christ, Andy Gliesser

How Deep the Father's Love for Us, Stuart Townend

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Sunday Devotional Study of 1 John 4:7-12

Estimated time needed: 20-30 min.

1 John 4:7-21 is one of the Bible's clearest passages on the love of God and its effect on a believer's life. This devotional is meant to help you think through these verses and their application in your life. Use your Bible and explore the deep meanings of this passage.

Before answer the following questions, read these supporting chapters in the Bible:

Ephesians 2

Romans 5

1 John 3:11-24

1 John 4:9-10

This passage of Scripture is truly amazing! There is so much packed into these verses that merit our close attention. These are the basics of Christianity – the fundamental issues that define true Christianity.

I don't know if you are like me – but there is such a wide range of opinions on the current social issues. Many are using the biblical command to "love thy neighbor" as a way to push their political stance and have abused this phrase to mean ...

"Agree with thy neighbor,"

"Approve of your neighbor and his lifestyle"

"Compromise your convictions to keep peace with thy neighbor" - And so on...

You can tell a lot about a person's "love" by how they treat you when you disagree with them.

What are some ways that you have seen true love demonstrated in a disagreement?

How did God love those who "disagreed" with Him. (Romans 5:5-8)

In 1 John 4, we have one of the clearest definitions of what true love looks like. The purest form of love coming from the Source of love (God is love).

Now there are different words for love used in the Bible. *Philos* – Brotherly love (give and take),

Eros – Sensual love (take only), and *Agape* – greatest love (give only).

Obviously, the love spoken in this passage is *agape* love – the highest form of love.

We can use 1 John 4:7-12 to help us understand the following about this high and pure love.

GOD'S LOVE DISPLAYED

1. How is this *agape* love of God displayed to man? (v.9-10)

"manifest" – to declare, openly display

"propitiation" – satisfaction of wrath through payment

2 Corinthians 5:21 is a wonderful verse that gives us an understanding of the doctrine of propitiation.

2. What does this *agape* love give? (vs. 10)

Romans 3:23 and 6:23 help us to know what it means to have "life through him."

3. What does this love require from the giver? (John 3:16)
4. What does this love require to receive it? (Ephesians 2:4-9)
5. To whom is this life given?
What do you think John is reminding his congregation of when He says in vs 10 “not that we loved God” and then again in I John 4:19?
6. Many people think of a display of love as giving a person what they want or what they think they need. How is the love of God different? What is man’s greatest need based on these passages of Scripture? Ephesians 2:1-9, John 3:1-21

GOD’S LOVE AT WORK IN BELIEVERS

7. What are the two evidences that God’s love has been manifest to us – and that our sins are paid for?
Vs12
8. God dwelling in us causes this perfect love to be matured in us.
 - a. What does mature love between believers look like (1 Cor 13)?
 - b. What are ways that we can lay down our lives for one another?
9. If the world has not seen God at any time (vs 12) and they don’t have or don’t read the Bible – How is God’s love “manifest” (made known) to them?
 - a. Based on Matthew 5:13-16 verses, what is one way in which God has ordained unbelievers to “see” the Gospel?
 - b. Based on John 13:34-35, how can the church demonstrate the love of God to the unsaved world?

Proposition: God’s love saves a person from sin and death. Through Christ’s work on the cross , the God of love comes to dwell in the heart of every believer. As God dwells in believers, He matures their love for one another. This maturing love between believers becomes one of the primary ways that God displays His saving love to a lost and dying world!

Praise: Take some time to pray and praise God for His saving and transforming love!

Repent: Confess if you have not loved “as you ought”. Confess if you have compromised the message of the Gospel by struggling to love other believers.

Ask: Ask God to allow your love for believers to be a light that draws the unsaved to see and hear the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yield: Submit your body, soul, and strength to follow the example of Jesus Christ, being willing to lay down your life to display the transforming power of the Gospel.