

THE SOURCE OF GENUINE LOVE

John 13:34 ... "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

1 Thessalonians 4:9 ... "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another"

1 John 3:16 ... "By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us..."

1 John 4:7 ... "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God AND knows God."

There is a lot of discussion in society, on social media, and other forums about love. People ask, "Why can't we love one another instead of fighting, raping, killing and insulting each another." It is a valid question, with a somewhat complicated answer. The Bible has much to say about the source of love; where it comes from, what it looks like, and on what basis it is exchanged.

1 John 4:7 says that our love for one another comes from God, and everyone who loves has a relationship with God. Interpretation: If you are a believer, you have a source of love from God himself, to share with others.

In John 15:12, Jesus instructs us to love one another as he loves us. Interpretation: Our love for others is modeled by his love for us. He died for us, which makes that a pretty powerful model.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 tells us that our love for one another is taught to us by God. Interpretation: Only born again believers qualify to be taught by God, so that makes us students of love.

Of course, non-believers have a capacity to love others, but it is a fragile form of love that the world has created, not the deep and sacrificial love that we learn from God and receive from him when we are born-again. In many instances, what non-believers share between one another is either lust or sincere mutual respect. That may offend you, but the Bible itself describes love only in the context of being the result of our relationship with God. God is love, he is the only source of love, and that love is perfect. But man cannot know or share that perfect love if he does not know the Savior.

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