

The Life: Experiencing and Expressing God's Love
1 John 4:7-21

God Is Love – 1 Jo 4:7-8

- The Source and Origins of love are in God – 1 Jo 4:8
 - ...“First love” is always God's love – 1 Jo 4:19; Deut 7:7-8; Ro 5:8
- God being love explains a number of things:
 - ...creation ...the freedom to choose ...salvation ...judgment ...human desires to be loved and to love
- God personally manifests/demonstrates His love – 1 Jo 4:9-10; Jo 1:18; Ro 5:8
 - ...He comes with the gift of His Saving Life – 1 Jo 4:10,14; Lk 19:10
 - ...In Christ, we see the extent of His love: “the whole world” – 1 Jo 4:14; 1 Jo 2:2
 - ...In Christ, we see the intent of His love: “that we might live through Him” – 1 Jo 4:9; 5:11-12

God Is Perfecting Our Capacity to Experience and Express His Loving Life – 1 Jo 4:12,17,18

- His Divine Love is the sphere of all human transformation/maturity – 1 Jo 4:18
 - ...the only way to grow up is to be loved and to love others into being – 1 Jo 4:19
- We must first get immersed/lost in God's love – 1 Jo 4:19
 - ...“first love” is God's love for us – Rev 2:4
 - ...His love casts out the fear that keeps us wrapped up in ourselves – 1 Jo 4:18; Gen 3:10
- We must then be willing to love whomever God sends – 1 Jo 4:20; 1 Cor 12:18

Signs We Are Growing Up, Being Perfected in God's Love:

- A growing confidence – 1 Jo 4:17-18
 - ...in the presence of God and of the fallen world – Ro 8:35-39
- An increasing genuineness – 1 Jo 4:20
 - ...we stop playing a role and begin to live our lives – II Cor 12:9
- A maturing obedience – 1 Jo 5:2
 - ...out of love, not law – 1 Jo 5:3; II Cor 5:14
- An expanding love for one another – 1 Jo 4:19,21
 - ...in the body of Christ – edification – Phil 4:19
 - ...in the world – evangelism – Jo 13:34,35
 - ...neither of which is a “burden” to the Lover in us – 1 Jo 4:17; 5:3

WE ARE LEARNING TO GET IN STEP WITH THE INTENT AND ACTIVITY OF GOD TO BE LOVED INTO BEING BY HIM AND TO LOVE OTHERS INTO BEING BY HIS LOVE

...WE CALL THAT “FELLOWSHIP” – 1 Jo 1:1-4