

UNDERSTANDING THIS THING CALLED LOVE

1 John 4:7-13 Jeff Schreve

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

Why is love so important in the Christian life?

1. God's nature is love.

A. God's love is motivating.

God is love 1 John 4:16

B. God's love is unconditional.

And looking at him, Jesus felt a love [agapao] for him

Mark 10:21

C. God's love is personal.

... who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20

2. God's sacrifice demonstrates His love.

By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

A. God willingly gave His only Son for you and me.

B. Christ's death satisfied God's holiness.

3. God's presence is visible through our love.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 1 John 4:11-13

A. When we truly love others, they see God in us.

B. If we don't love others, we see a serious problem.

*The one who does not love does not know God, for
God is love. 1 John 4:8*

*... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through
the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5*

God wants to live through you so He can love through you.