

Connect

Have you ever gotten into an argument and suddenly realized you were completely wrong, but your first instinct was to stubbornly keep arguing anyway? Why do you think it is so hard for us to just admit we are wrong?

Verses - 1 John 4:7-21 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and we testify that the Father has sent his Son as the world's Savior. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God. 16 And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. 17 In this, love is made complete with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because as he is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears is not complete in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And we have this command from him: The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. According to vv.7-8, where does true love come from, and what does possessing this love prove about a person?

2. How did God practically demonstrate this unique, sacrificial love to a world that was hostile to Him?

3. v.12 says that if we love one another, God's love is "made complete" in us. What does the word "complete" mean in this context?

4. John says that a person who claims to love God but hates their brother is a liar. How does John prove this using the visible vs. the invisible?

Share

DISCUSS 1

When Pastor Takeshi felt the urge to argue with his wife, he didn't just try harder to be nice; he stepped away, went to his QT spot, and asked God for help. This resulted in a "quiet spirit." How does this demonstrate the power of prayer? What happens when we don't pray? How often should we pray?

DISCUSS 2

It is easy to sing worship songs wholeheartedly to an "invisible God." However, how does loving a "visible" brother, sister, or difficult person in your life demonstrate God's love in us? How can you practically ask God to "complete" His love in us this week?

Minister to one another sharing specific prayer requests.