**GENUINE LOVE**

**1 John 4:7 – 12**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The word “LOVE” is found over 400 times in the Bible, about half in the New Testament.

2. Even the secular world elevates this subject in songs, poetry, drama, literature, etc.

3. It is looked upon as the most desirable gift one can either give or receive; **BUT** there is **NO**

 subject in which more confusion exists than this [subject of LOVE].

1. LOVE has been given as the basis of the breakup of marriages (“I *love* someone else”); as the reason to commit a crime (“I wanted to give [*love*] my children...”); as a foundation for ignoring God’s Commands (“We need to *love* rather than demand obedience”); even the basis for teen-age/other(s) pregnancy (“we *love* each other and we wanted a baby”).

**BODY:**

**1. “GOD IS LOVE” (1 Jn 4:8)**

 A. Since God is the epitome of LOVE /visible source of LOVE, [we] must be able to obtain

 some instruction by observing what God has done and said about Himself.

1. If the Bible has LOVE as a theme written by “holy men of God…moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet 1:20, 21), [we] can learn how to give, receive and understand LOVE…
2. The Bible is the ideal on the subject of LOVE; **BUT** its instruction may **NOT** be what some want to hear or accept because LOVE prompts MAN - **NOT** to disobey God nor to ignore God’s Law - **BUT** to OBEY and RESPECT Him.

**2. WHAT HAS LOVE MOTIVATED GOD TO DO?**

 A. LOVE, as manifested by God, in Him Giving of His “*only begotten son*” (Jn 3:16).

 B. His LOVE and MERCY are motivating factors expressing GRACE (Tit 2:11, 12; 3:4, 5).

 C. It is God’s LOVE that motivates Him to “*chasten us*” (Heb 12:5 – 10).

 D. Knowing MAN’S weaknesses and Satan’s devices, God’s LOVE causes Him to Warn

 [us] of every impending danger (Ac 20:28 – 32; 1 Cor 9:27 – 10:12).

 E. Having MAN’S best interests at heart, God’s LOVE moves Him to Rebuke and Provoke [us] to greater service in His Kingdom (2 Tim 4:1 – 4).

 F. His LOVE seeks ways He Redeem [us] from servitude to Satan, to forgive [us] of [our]

 sins and transgressions (Rom 4:23 – 26; 5:5 – 9; 6:16 – 18; 1 Pet 1:18 – 25).

 G. His LOVE reveals things He Hates (Pro 6:16-19; Rom 1:20-32; Eph 5:3-12; Col 3:5-9).

 H. His LOVE reveals the way to Eternal LIFE [we] could **NOT** find without His Revelation.

 1. Pro 16:25; Jer 10:23; Mt 7:13, 14

**3. WHAT WILL OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS CAUSE US TO DO?**

 A. God LOVED and gave; Christ LOVED and gave; [we] may claim to LOVE, **BUT** what

 [we] give is the true test of our LOVE for God and others (Mt 25:31 – 46; 2 Cor 8:1 – 8).

 B. God’s LOVE and GRACE provides a “way to escape” (1 Cor 10:13).

 1. [We] are now challenged to reveal to the lost the God’s GRACE as revealed in the gospel (Tit 2:11, 12), including the conditions (Mk 16:15, 16).

 C. Genuine LOVE is expressed in **NO** more noble way than our LOVE for the brethren

 to “chasten” or discipline those who have fallen away (1 Cor 5:5; 1 The 5:14).

1. [We] LOVE others to the degree [we] will warn them of the impending dangers on the road to Eternity (Eze 33:7 – 9; Lk 22:31 – 34; Gal 2:11 – 14).
2. If [we] LOVE one another as [we] should, then [we] will provoke one another to LOVE

and good works (Heb 10:24, 25).