

WORDS
OF
COMFORT

JUNE 28, 2020 | COLIN MCDOUGALL SR. | FAMILY NOTES

**Love One Another!
1 John 4:7-12**

- 1) Love is talked about everywhere in our lives and our world, but in your opinion, what is “real” love?**
- 2) Real love isn't just loving someone when they love you back. Jesus says that non-Christians know how to “love” when they are being loved back (Matt. 5:46-48).**

What kind of love is Jesus referring to?

Jesus says that being recreated in Christ means we can receive and cherish this gift of being able to genuinely love, even those who aren't loving us back. *“For if you love those who love you, what reward to you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, don't they? And if you greet only your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don't they? So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* (Matt. 5:46-48)

See if you can come up with 10 examples of loving when you aren't being loved back.

Here are some ideas to prime the pump:

- Not trading an insult or mean word with your brother or sister when they are being mean.
- Inviting people over to your house even if you aren't being invited to their house.
- Allowing your sibling to play video games when it was your turn.
- Texting a friend who is discouraged or lonely or confused.
- Doing the chore that no one else in the family likes to do.

3) Reread 1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

How does the Apostle John define love?

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 (vs. 10). Our definition of love as disciples of Christ will always go back to the sacrifice and selflessness of Jesus on the cross. God demonstrates His love, in that while we are still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). Our love looks the most like Christ's love when people can't love us back.

Where does real love come from?

The love that Jesus and John and the Bible talks about can only come through the supernatural work of God. We can only love this way after we have received and been transformed by God's love.

4) Close in praying for this supernatural love in our church, our families and our own lives.

2020 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030.