

# ***Amity Bible Church***

*“Knowing God and Making Him Known”*

## **Sunday Bible Study**

**Series: God is \_\_\_\_\_**

**July 9, 2017**

**Text: 1 John 4:7-11**

**Theme: “God is in Love”**

### **Central Message:**

We are children of God because God is love...He loved us, He forgave us, and He sent His Son to die for us, so we should love others in the body of Christ.

**Observation #1: Loving others is a biblical command and the key word for us is Scripture. (1 John 4:7a)**

**How can we be salt and light to a dying world when we repudiate the very nature and character of the God we claim to love and serve? John, the apostle, had similar concerns and he expressed them in this letter. The letter is both stern and compassionate because he is speaking to fellow believers.**

- a. John is speaking to fellow believers and he is echoing the command of Christ for believers to love one another. (John 13:34-35)
- b. It is interesting that God commands us to love one another, when love is part of the essential nature of a born again believer. So what is the reason for the mandate? (John 13:34-35)
- c. God commands us to love one another because he works through his word to bring glory and honor to himself. When we obey His command, we are declaring to Him through our obedience that we truly love Him. (John 14:21,23)

- d. It is also true that God's word does not operate apart from his Spirit and His Spirit does not operate apart from His word. Word and Spirit work together to accomplish the will of God. (John 16:12-13)
- e. Love and obedience are really two peas in the same pod. (John 14:21,23; John 15:3)

**Observation #2: Loving others is a spiritual phenomenon and the key word for us is Supernatural. (1 John 4:7b)**

**Love finds its source in God. It originates from God because He is the Creator, He is the "uncaused cause", and love is an essential part of His essence and character.**

- a) It is important for us to know that God is the source and origin of love because we represent Him on the earth, and how we love is a reflection on His character.
- b) Jesus declared a new commandment in John 13:34 that believers should love one another, but He gave the purpose in verse 34. He said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." Our testimony to the world that we are followers of Christ is reflected in our love for one another.

**Observation #3: Love is the litmus test for who we are as believers and the key word is Self-Centered. (1 John 4:8)**

**Having established that the source and origin of love is God, Himself, the apostle goes on to show that our love for other believers is proof positive that we are indeed children of God. Those who fail to love contradict the very essence of what it means to be a believer.**

- a) 1 John 3:14 states, "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren." The key point is that "professing believers" who do not love others may be showing themselves to be just no more than "professing believers".
- b) Loving others is what we do as believers. It is a part of our new spiritual DNA. When we fail to love others, we may be confirming that we have a

different set of priorities. 2 Timothy states this fact very succinctly, “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of Godliness, though they have denied its power; avoid such men.”

**Observation #4: Biblical love comes directly from the heart of God and the key word for us is Sacrifice. (1 John 4:9-11)**

**John began by showing that the requirement for believers to love other believers is a biblical command. God expects obedience because He works through His word and His Spirit to accomplish His will and purpose. John also established that love finds its source and origin in God because He is love. Love is essential to His character and essence. We demonstrate that we are believers when we love one another and we raise serious questions about who we are when we fail to love. In the final analysis, God showed us what real love looks like by giving His Son that we might become the righteousness of God through faith.**

- a) John 15:13 tells us, “Greater love has no one that this, that one lay down his life for his friends”. God loved the world so much that He willing sacrificed His Son so that we might have eternal life. Sacrifice is the extreme expression of love.
- b) Sacrifice is not sacrifice if it costs you nothing. Our redemption costs God everything. This passage closes with the strongest justification for why we should love other believers. 1 John 4:11 says, Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If God was willing to sacrifice His very best, how can we withhold our love from others? God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Brothers and sisters, let us love one another as Christ loved us.