



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Extraordinarily Love!

**Scripture:** 1 John 4:7-11 -<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. <sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another.

The acid test of a born-again experience is found in verses 7 and 8. John is letting us know to love one another and love comes from God and if we do it, we are born of God and know Him. Jesus told us in John 15:12, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

When we do what is commanded of us it proves that we are of God, our sonship, and it is proof we know Him. Since God is love we should imitate Him as children of God. Everyone believes love is important, but we usually think of it as a feeling. **Love is a choice and an action!** First Corinthians 13:4-7 tells us, "*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*"

**God is the source of our love:** He loved us enough to sacrifice his Son for us. Jesus is our example of what it means to love; everything He did in life and death was supremely loving. The Holy Ghost gives us the power to love; He lives in our heart and makes us more and more like Him. God's love always involves a choice and an action, and our love should be like His. **How well do you display your love for God in the choices you make and the actions you take?**

John said, "**God is love,**" not "Love is God." Our world, with its shallow and selfish view of love, has turned these words around and contaminated our understanding of love. The world thinks love is what makes you feel good, and it is willing to sacrifice moral principles and others' rights in order to obtain such "**love.**" But that is not real love; it is love's exact opposite—selfishness. We cannot apply to God the view of love propagated by an evil world. **Our definition of love must come from God, who is holy, just, and perfect.** At the same time, if we truly know God, we must learn to love as He does.

The proof of God's love to mankind was when He sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. By doing that it made it possible to have access to Him, and it was done "*while we were yet sinners, Christ die for us*" (Romans 5:8). Moreover, He had imparted His love to us by "*shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost*" (Romans 5:5) that we might live, because "*He not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9).

First John 4:10 tells us, "*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" The giving of God's only begotten Son is the fullest proof of the infinite love of God and that all men can find full mercy. And "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*" (Titus 3:5).

Our love to God did not induce God to give His Son to die for us. It caused Him to seek a solution to the problem of sin. It was God's love, not our merit, that caused Him to undertake our redemption from slavery, and from eternal hell. Nothing sinful or evil can exist in God's presence. He is absolute goodness. He cannot overlook, condone, or excuse sin as if it never happened. He loves us, but His love does not make Him morally lax. **If** we trust in Jesus, however, we do not have to bear the penalty for our sins (1 Peter 2:24). "*By the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life*" (Romans 5:18).

Our love for one another must be impartial, unselfish, sincere, abounding, fervent, and is proof of our discipleship.

**"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11).**