

3 MOTIVATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LOVE (1 John 4:7-12)

February 15th, 2026

TEXT: 1 Jn. 4:7-12

MAIN IDEA—Loving one another is the high calling and normal activity of Christians.

MEMORY VERSES—1 Jn 4:7-8

GOD'S NATURE (1 Jn. 4:7-8)—The first reason John exhorts Christians to love one another is because God's nature demands it.

Eph. 2:8-9

Eph. 2:10

James Montgomery Boice (1938-2000) --*God the Father is love, God the Son is love, God the Spirit is love. Therefore, if we know the God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we will love.*

GOD'S GIFT (1 Jn. 4:9-10)—The second reason Christians must love one another is because of God's gift of Jesus Christ his Son for our salvation.

Jn. 3:16-17

Propitiation means a sacrifice that bears God's wrath and turns it to God's favor.

Rom. 5:6-11

Jn. 17:24-26

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GOD'S WORK (1 Jn. 4:11-12)—The third reason Christians are to love one another is because love is the present work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian.

Eph. 4:32-5:2

1*LOVING OTHERS PROVES THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US (V12).

2*LOVING OTHERS REVEALS SPIRITUAL MATURITY (V12).

Jn. 13:34-35

Dr. Jerry Bridges on the Love from The Fruitful Life writes 1 Cor. 13:4-8 lived out in practical terms--*I am patient with you because I love you and want to forgive you. I am kind to you because I love you and want to help you. I do not envy your possessions or your gifts because I love you and want you to have the best. I do not boast about my attainments because I love you and want to hear about yours. I am not proud because I love you and want to esteem you before myself. I am not rude because I love you and care about your feelings. I am not self-seeking because I love you and want to meet your needs. I am not easily angered by you because I love you and want to overlook your offenses. I do not keep a record of your wrongs because I love you and "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).*

BLESSING—Eph. 3:21