

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*

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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--/

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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