

“One Another” Love

(1 John 4:7-10)

Yearly Theme: “Love Goes...”

Series Title: *Love Goes the Distance*

January 6th, 2019

Something to think about:

How do you define the word “love?”

Who do you love?

Is there anyone you don’t love?

1 John 4:7-21 (NLT)

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

There are four different types of love in the Greek language, three of which are used in the New Testament. These four are as follows:

- Agape is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love.
- Eros is the word for sensual or romantic love.
- Phileo means brotherly love or friendship.
- Storge describes the love between family members.

“Agape” is what Jesus taught His disciples that God had, and also what he taught them to have for God and one another. The word that John uses in this passage, from beginning to end is: *Agape*.

And, he starts out by telling them to continue to love one another. Why would he tell them this? Well, it seems that they may have been having trouble with this due to the false teachings that had eeked their way into the early Church. John wanted the church to know that...

Key Point: “Our love for God is evidenced by our love for one another.”

So, how do we do this? What can we learn from this passage today?

1. Agape comes from God and God is agape.

1 John 4:9-10 (NLT), ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

And, also John’s words from his Gospel:

John 3:16 (NLT), “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

2. We should agape one another.

1 John 4:19 (NIV), We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:7-10 (NLT), ⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

John 13:34-35 (NLT), ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

John 15:11-12 (NLT), ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

John 15:17 (NLT), This is my command: Love each other.

Something to take home:

As we close today, consider John’s audience. Who was he writing to? He was writing to the Church. But, why is he reminding them of the importance of loving one another? I mean, love is what the Church is known for right? Well, not necessarily. It should be what the church is known for, but all too often, selfish desires and ambitions invade the Church and tear down the bonds of love and unity and leave a wake of destruction and damage that ripples outside of the community of faith and into the world; and this is so damaging. If we can’t love people in the Church, how can we even begin to love those outside of the Church?

Key Point: “Our love for God is evidenced by our love for one another.”

So, how is your love for others?

Does your love look like God’s love?

NOTES:

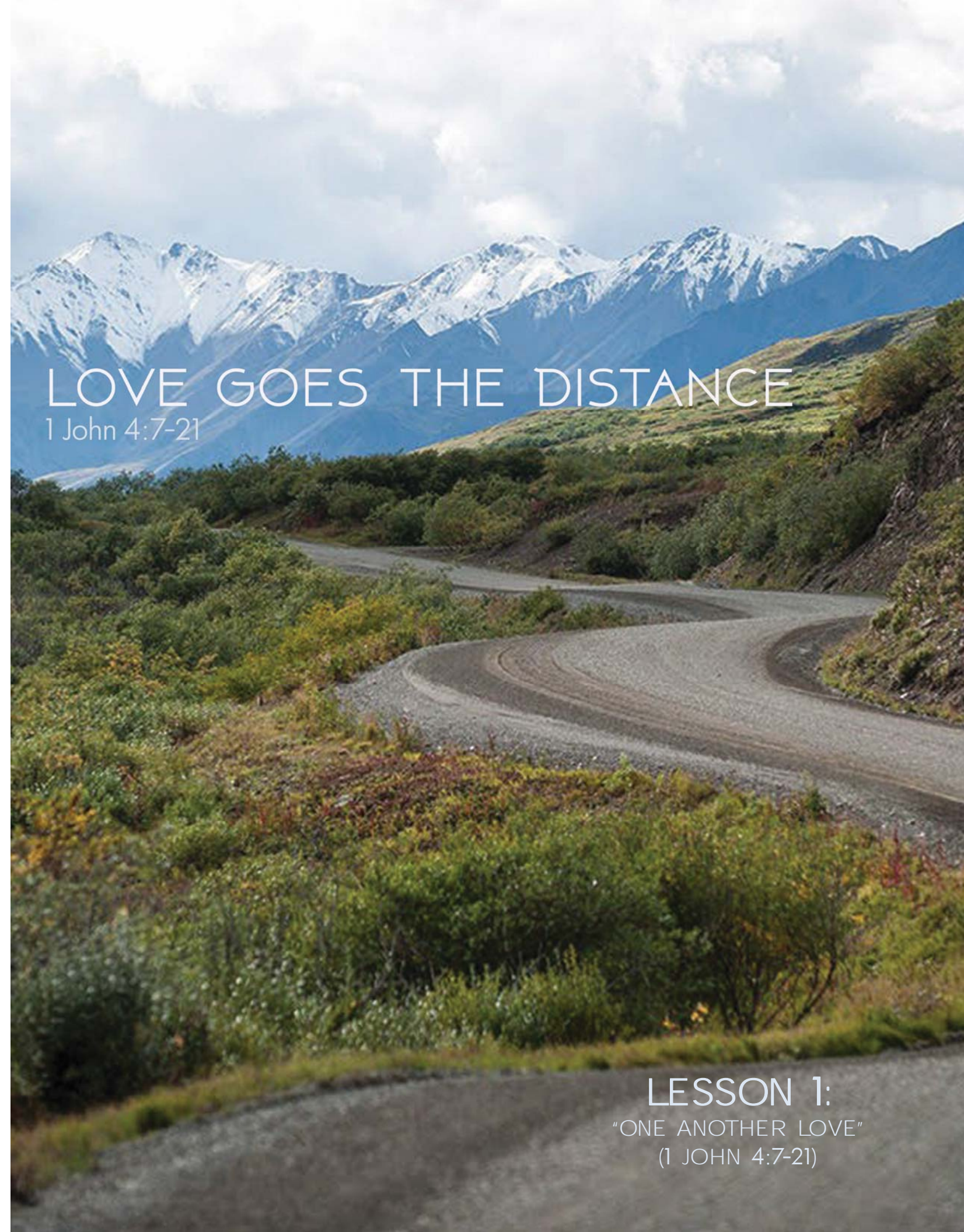


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“Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

***Know** Christ intimately,
Grow in Christ continually, and,
Go for Christ daily;*

Through:
*Core Families,
Community Partnerships, and
Global Connections.*



LOVE GOES THE DISTANCE

1 John 4:7-21

LESSON 1:

*“ONE ANOTHER LOVE”
(1 JOHN 4:7-21)*

One Another Love

(1 John 4:7-21)

Series: *Love Goes the Distance*

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ What is “love?”
- ⇒ Describe a time when you felt loved the most...

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

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GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. For today’s study, let’s focus on verses 7-10. What specific things is John talking about in these few verses?

2. There are four words for love in the ancient Greek language that the New Testament is written in: 1) *Eros*—Romantic love, 2) *Phileo*—Brotherly/Friendship love, 3) *Storge*—Family love, and 4) *Agape*—Selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. How many words does the English language have for love? How does the English speaking person differentiate between the different types of love with only one word?

3. Throughout this whole passage in chapter 4, John is only talking about *agape* love. This type of love only comes from God. The perfect example of this type of love is described in verses 9-10. Read verse 9-10 and explain *agape* love the way John describes it (compare to John 3:16, and Romans 5:6-8)...

4. In verse 7 John writes that, “love comes from God.” Again, he is describing *agape* love. Does *everyone* love with an *agape* type of love? Explain...

5. *Agape* love can only be given by someone who has surrendered their life to Christ. The three other loves (*eros*, *phileo*, and *storge*) can be given without believing in God, however, *agape* love cannot be given apart from belief in God (1 John 4:19). When we accept the *agape* of God through Jesus and believe in Him, then we are able to *agape* the way that He *agapes* us. So, in verse 7, when John says, “Anyone who *agapes* is a child of God,” he is talking about the person who has surrendered their life to Christ and has willingly received the love of God into their life (read John’s words from his Gospel: John 1:10-13). With all of this in mind, consider verse 10. How does a person become a child of God, and how can a person love like God?

6. As followers of Christ, the Church is commanded to *agape*. This is the one commandment that Jesus gave His disciples, and the one commandment that He gives us (John 13:34-35; 15:11-12, 17). Can all other commandments and laws be kept by living out this one commandment from Jesus (Read: Matthew 22:37-40)? If so, how is this possible?

7. As a final question, how are you doing with giving and receiving *agape* love? How do you think the Church-at-large is doing with this? How can we all do a better job at *agape’ing* the way God first *agape’d* us?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ WHO DO YOU LOVE? IS THERE ANYONE YOU DON’T LOVE?
- ⇒ IS LOVING THE WAY GOD LOVES EASY? If loving the way God loves isn’t easy, then what’s the key to living out the commandment “to love each” other that Jesus gave us? The key is in first surrendering to God’s love through Jesus Christ; this is the only way we can have the strength or capacity to love the way God first loved us. Take some time out this week to pray for those you have a hard time loving. Maybe it’s someone who has hurt you. Maybe it’s someone who annoys you. Maybe it’s your boss. Whoever it is, and whatever the case, ask God to help you to love them the way that He loves you when you’re at your worst. You might be surprised what God reveals to you.
- ⇒ MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 4:7-8 and John 15:17.