

## Tony Evans Bible Commentary

### 1John 4: 7-21

The dominant theme in this letter is this: Fellowship, Intimacy, and Closeness with the Lord. Fellowship with God is Visible and Attainable when Christians love each other. If love is from God, there are no options; we must love one another! (V.7)

Since God is love, an absence of love in your life reveals an absence of fellowship with God. It indicates that you don't know

Him like you claim to do (v.8)

In verses 9-10, John gives a clear definition of love found in the Bible.

1. Love is visible, not invisible. God's love was revealed.
2. Love is an act of the will. God sent His Son.
3. Love is sacrificial. It cost God His One and Only Son
4. Love serves the unlovable. It's not that we loved God, but that He loved us .
5. Love addresses sin. God sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

In verses 11-13, to show God's love, we must love one another. Love God's children (each other) and He will give His rich, intimate fellowship to you through His Spirit.

In verses 14-16, if you believe the Son of God is the Savior of the world, He has delivered you from sin, Says , and death (v.14). The one who remains in love remains in God (v.15). To remain is to "hang out." Hang out with love, and God will hang out with you . To live in the atmosphere of love means that you live in the atmosphere of God.

When love is made complete in you, you can be confident in the day of judgment(v. 17). Every believer will come before the judgment seat of Christ. This is not about your salvation; the way you lived your life as a Christian will be evaluated.

Mature, perfect love drives out fear (4:18). When you Minister in love to members of God's family, you can stand confidently on that day because 1Peter 4:8 says "...love covers a multitude of sins."

According to 1 John 4:19, we can only love because He first loved us.

According to 1John 4:20, your love for God is measured by what you do... not by what you say! You cannot claim to love the invisible God if you have chosen to not love your visible Christian brothers and sisters.

According to 1 John 4:21, God has brought together loving Him and loving His children. You cannot disconnect them!