



**God's Foundation for Your Relationship
with Him and Others
(1 John 4:7-21)**

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

Central Theme of 1 John 4:7-21: The evidence that one has a genuine relationship with God is revealed in his love for others, which is not possible without first walking in love for God by obedience to His word. Therefore, anyone who has been delivered from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and soon the presence of sin, unto a right standing and right relationship with God, will demonstrate a love for God through obedience to His word and a love for others which works out in serving others accordingly. This will result in maturity in Christ-like character and confidence before God in the day of judgement. If this is not happening, something is wrong. One must examine himself or herself to see where they truly stand with God. So the question is: Do you love Him or do you love Him not?

Ten Point Summary of 1 John 4:7-21

1. We are commanded to love one another, which is ultimately seeking the highest good of others in any or all aspects of life without looking for anything in return for our service towards them.
2. The source of this quality of love we are commanded to give to one another is God, who is by nature and action the epitome of love.
3. The demonstration of this quality of love is seen in God the Father sending God the Son:
 - a. to be crucified on the cross, buried, and resurrected on our behalf
 - b. to deliver us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and soon the presence of sin, unto a new life in union with Christ Jesus, for all who put their faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ
4. God loved us in this fashion because this is His nature, not because we loved Him.
5. We are to love others because of the reality that God loved us first.
6. We are to love others according to who we are in Christ and the power we have in Christ, not according to who people are or how they treat us or mistreat us.
7. Since we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we have the power to love people according to the ability granted to us by the Holy Spirit, which is not contingent upon the attitudes and actions of others.

8. Even though no one has seen God, the evidence that we:
 - a. have embraced the love of God for us
 - b. have embraced Jesus as the Son of God
 - c. possess a real relationship with God and not just profess a relationship with Godwill be confirmed by the Holy Spirit within us and will be demonstrated by our obedience to God, leading to loving others with the quality of love that God demonstrated to us.

9. The more we embrace the love of God for us, pursue walking in obedience to God in all aspects of life, and demonstrate God's quality of love to others:
 - a. we will grow to maturity in Christ-like character
 - b. we will have confidence before God in the day of judgement because we have walked in love for God and others, reflecting His character of love in this world
 - c. we will not be fearful of punishment from God

10. Genuine love for God will always result in genuine love for others not hatred; otherwise that person does not know and love God at all. Do you love God or do you love Him not?

Central theme: God designed relationships to revolve around truth and love, as demonstrated by God through the community of the Trinity, and to be developed through mankind's relationship with God and with others. "Man is a social being. He is made to be in relationship with others. This is part of being created in the image of God. The Bible teaches that the one God exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who live together in eternal fellowship. So too we were made to live in communion with others. But in particular we were made to live in fellowship and communion with God himself."¹ This communion with God and others is based on truth and love.

¹ Barclay, William B.. *The Secret of Contentment* (p. 126). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.