

## ENGAGE IN LOVE

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother and sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen cannot love God, whom they have not seen. Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister (1 John 4:20-21).

In these verses, John repeated the word LOVE 5X! John was not referring to some sort of emotion or goose bumps when your eyes cast a beautiful lady or a handsome guy, or your feelings toward the man or the woman of your dreams?

The love that John was referring here is the love that is from God (v7)– love that you and I cannot produce on our own!

The kind of love that John refers to is the love of God that flows from the cross at Calvary where Jesus shed his blood and willingly offered his body as a **sacrifice** for all of our sins. It flows from his death on the cross to **reconcile** the conflict that exist between man and God (**v9-10**)!

1. God’s love is sacrificial. We are called to love the same! **“only seek your interest but give more weight on the interest of others. One that is not motivated by selfishness or vain conceit, but one that values others above oneself. “ Phil. 2:3-4.**
2. God’s love is reconciliatory. We are called to engage in the same manner. Love is not possible without reconciliation and reconciliation is not possible without taking the effort and time to swallow pride and to verbalize the key words: “forgive me.” And the sign of genuine love is obedience to God’s commandment (5:3).

**Question:** Would you be obedient to God to verbally asked the person you have offended consciously or not to forgive you? Would you be like Jesus to take the first move to reconcile His undeserving disciples to him?

3. Loving God and others is done in faith and with the Holy Spirit! (v20) - God knows of each other’s imperfections and yet, He still gave the command that we love one another regardless. *“No one has ever seen God; but if*

*we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” (v12)*

**Question:** Will you ask the Holy Spirit to help you?

4. Loving a brother and sister is a command, not an option (V21). It requires action!

*Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister – Dear friends, let us love one another (v7) No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” (v12).*

- a) Love in action is a believer’s responsibility

*(v11) “dear friends, since god so loved us, we also ought to love another.”*

- b) Love in action is more than words. It is demonstrated!

*(9) “this is how god showed his love among us: he sent his one and only son into the world... (10) he sent his son as atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

**Question:** Jesus is not asking you to die on the cross. What he is asking you is to die to yourself? To your pride? Will you be willing to be gracious, forgiving, reconciling, and loving to those who give you an itch? Be it in church, at home, anywhere? will you be willing to make the first move?

5. Humility is the best measure, the best test of maturity! Matt. 5:43-48

God has big plans for you and so he wants you to mature in humility. The holy spirit will do it in and thru you!

**Question:** will you be willing to go through a maturation process which will require you to seek active and verbal forgiveness to a brother or a sister that you have wronged even though they may not be aware of what you have done against them? Your case could be that you were wrongly accused like Jesus. May encouragement to you is to respond like Jesus! Forgive! Go to the person and humbly tell them how you have felt and that you are releasing yourself from the hurt/offense. You must for your own sake! Forgive!!!