



# The Picture of Perfect Love — Part 1

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1 John 4:7-21

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**INTRODUCTION** — Setting the stage for our study

**The Transition** — From Discernment to Love

*“Beloved ...”*

The Doctrinal Test — 4:1-6

*“Beloved, **do not** believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, ...”*

The Relational Test — 4:7-21

*“Beloved, **let us** love one another, for love is from God; ...”*

**The Theme** — Love

The Passages — John talks about love 3 times in 1 John

- 2:7-11 — The **PROOF** of being in the Light
- 3:10-14 — The **PRACTICE** of sonship.
- 4:1-21 — The **PICTURE** of God.

The Picture — John 4 is the picture of “perfect” love (cf. vs. 12,17,18)

LESSON — The Picture of Perfect Love, Part 1 4:7-21

I. LOVE IS **WHO** GOD IS vs. 7-8

The Meaning — What does this mean?

This does *not* mean ...

**LOVE** is God.

That love is the **ONLY** definition for God.

This *does* mean ...

God Himself is the very **SOURCE** of love (agape).

The Mistake — What should we watch for?

That we don't **LIMIT** our understanding of love.

That we don't become **LOVE-ITES**.

II. LOVE IS **WHY** GOD DIED vs. 9-11

The Person — Who is this that came into our world? v. 9

*“By this the love of God was manifest in us, that God **has sent** His only **begotten** Son into the world so that we might **live** through Him.”*

The Purpose — What did Jesus come for? vs. 10-11

*“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **sent** **His Son** to be the **propitiation** for our sins.”*

The death of Jesus was not an **ACCIDENT**, it was an **APPOINTMENT**.

The death of Jesus was God's way of satisfying His just wrath that was upon us because of our sin, and bringing about a change in God's **ATTITUDE** toward the sinner who believes on Christ — He moves from being at **WAR** with us, to being **FOR** us.

**Applying this to our lives ...** (See vs. 8, 12)