

DEVO 7 MADE FOR LOVE

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”

1 John 4:7-10

In 4 short verses, John writes the word love 9 times & God 7 times. He also pens the Earth-shaking, soul-altering phrase, “Theos esti Agape”. Every English translation of the Bible from the King James Version to the New International Version, from the New American Standard Version to The Message translate these 3 Greek words the exact same way. God is love. Theos = God, esti = is, Agape = love. God is love.

This profound statement, “God is love” is so simple and perfect. John makes these huge claims “love comes from God”, God proved His love through Jesus, and repeats Christ’s commandment that we are to “love one another”. The mark of a true believer can be seen through their love and the sign of someone that “does not love does not know God”. Observation of an individual’s love is a barometer for how closely they walk with the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

If only it were so simple though. As with all great teachings of the Lord, this has been hijacked both intentionally and unintentionally by folks that would seek to twist Biblical truths to make them more suitable for their previously held Worldviews. In this case much of the misunderstanding comes from lack of clarity around the definition of the word love itself. In English love is used for a deal of reasons from loving your shoes, your dog, your kids, and your spouse. The love someone feels for a nation is incredibly different than the love felt for a grandchild.

How does John define love though? He says that God shows His love by sending Jesus to save us. John’s definition of love is centered around unconditional love. Self-sacrificial love. So let’s do that. Let us follow God’s command to love each other, not with a thin, well-wishing politeness, but with a self-sacrificial, unconditional love that takes the first step so that others may be saved.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Thank you God for your love. Thank you for showing me how to love. Help me to be more loving to those close to me and to those far away. Give me specific times, ways, and places to love others well, so that you may be glorified, and more may be saved.

OTHER VERSES FOR STUDY:

Romans 12:9-10 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | 1 Peter 4:7-8