

# 1 John 4:7 – 5:3

New American Standard Version

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2 <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and  
3 everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one  
4 who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> By this  
5 the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only  
6 begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.  
7 <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and  
8 sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

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10 <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.  
11 <sup>12</sup> No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God  
12 abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know  
13 that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His  
14 Spirit. <sup>14</sup> We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son  
15 *to be* the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is  
16 the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

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18 <sup>16</sup> We have come to know and have believed the love which God  
19 has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in  
20 God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this, love is perfected with us,  
21 so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because  
22 as He is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love;  
23 but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment,  
24 and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

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26 <sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love  
27 God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not  
28 love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has  
29 not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him, that the  
30 one who loves God should love his brother also.

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32 <sup>5:1</sup> Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and  
33 whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him. <sup>2</sup> By this we  
34 know that we love the children of God, when we love God and  
35 observe His commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we  
36 keep His commandments; and His commandments are not  
37 burdensome.

**Observation (What does it say?):**

*What do you notice in this passage?*

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if–then) statements?
- Other observations?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- On the line above each section, write a summary or title of the section.
- How do the sections relate to each other?
- How are the sections different?
- How would you describe the flow of John’s thinking?
- How would you divide the sections differently?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- This passage includes several familiar phrases (e.g., “God is love,” “Perfect love casts out fear,” etc.). How is your understanding of those phrases affected by studying the passage in context?
- How can you love God and love others better from studying this passage?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- “Everyone who loves is born of God” (v. 7). *What does that mean for non-believers who love? Is John over-generalizing?*
- “God is love” (v. 8, 16). *How have you heard that phrase misused? How do you respond?*
- *What reasons does John give for God “sending” His Son? How do those reasons fit together?*
- *How is fear affected by love? What does this look like in your experience? How might we misunderstand that principle?*

**Inductive Bible Study**

(A few general ideas)

**Observation**  
**(What does it say?)**

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

**Interpretation**  
**(What does it mean?)**

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

**Application**  
**(What does it mean for me?)**

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Benael (1687-1752)**