



Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:7-12, 16-19
NRSV

"Born to be Generous"

October 4 & 6, 2019

If someone were to ask you "What is Christianity all about?", what would you say?

1) God is Love.

"Love" is one of God's _____ attributes.
Love comes from _____.

2) God's Love Has Been Revealed.

1st John 4:9-10 – "God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him..."
God loves us with an _____ love.
We don't have to be anything or do anything to be loved by God.

3) We Are Loved.

1st John describes God's love for us as an overflowing, great, more-than-enough, perfect, fear-eliminating love.
God is perfect love, and we as the people of God are _____ loved by God.
God views every person as _____, treasured, and important.

4) We Are Created in God's Image.

The _____ Image of God: "The character of holiness and love that God intended for humanity." – Randy Maddox

1. We were created to love and be _____.
2. We _____ who God is when we love.

1st John 4:12 – "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."

[Our generosity testifies to God's generosity in a skeptical world.](#)

Action Steps:

- 1) Memorize 1st John _____.
- 2) Don't procrastinate. Practice _____ now.