

# **This Is Love**

1 John 4:7-12

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

## **What Do We Really Mean by Love?**

*"Beloved, let us love one another."*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Is Love.**

*"God is love."*

That truth raises an unavoidable question:

How would finite, fallen creatures ever know that love?

**God's Love Is Manifest to Us in a \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son ..."*

God did not merely tell us that He loves us. He \_\_\_\_\_ us – by entering our broken world as Jesus to rescue us from death and give us eternal life.

**God's Love Meets Us Through \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"God ... loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

Propitiation means that our sin against God – our real guilt before Him – has been dealt with in such a way that His righteous \_\_\_\_\_ is fully satisfied, \_\_\_\_\_ is honored, and the broken \_\_\_\_\_ is restored.

**God's Love Is the Means to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."*

Christ did not come to make bad people \_\_\_\_\_. He came to make dead people \_\_\_\_\_.

**God's Love Makes Us \_\_\_\_\_.**

The necessary expression of a Christian who has received the love of God is love poured out toward others – truthful, sacrificial, tangible love.

By loving one another, we experience the presence of God. God abides in us. And His love is \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

## **A Necessary Christmas Message**

Beloved, let us love one another.  
Because God is love.

And in Christ, that love has come to us – and now, through us, to the world.