



THIS IS LOVE

THE 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD LETTERS OF JOHN

What is Love?:

- Love is defined through the _____ of God.

A Note About John's Audience:

- John is writing to the _____, about the _____.

The _____ Action of Christ is how we, as Christians, are _____.

1 John 4:10:

- "This is love: Not that we loved God, but that He loved us _____ and sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins."

We cannot earn God's love...

- ...Because His action has already been _____.

What is life all about, Charlie Brown?

- The Christian life is a _____ to the loving action of God with the actions of its own.

*"John has made it amply clear that the existence and will of God and His action in love towards us through Jesus Christ are the grounds for our knowledge of God's love, and that God's love is the basis for our obligation to love one another, which is so succinctly expressed **in the love commandment.**"*

-D. Moody Smith

One Thing:

- God's love reaches its intended goal when love _____ becomes love _____.



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1. Which is more difficult for you: believing that you are already loved by God, or extending that love to another person? Why?
2. **Read 1 John 4:7-10.** According to verses 7-10, where does Christian love begin? How does John's answer challenge the feeling that we must earn God's attention or affection?
3. John writes, "God is love." What does this passage teach us about the kind of love John has in mind? How does the person of Jesus protect us from defining love according to our own preferences?
4. Why does John connect the love of God to the incarnation: "God sent his one and only Son into the world"? What does the coming of Christ reveal about the nature of divine love?
5. **Read 1 John 4:11 and 12.** John says that God's love is "made complete" in us. The Greek word *teleioō* means to carry something through to its intended goal. What is the intended goal of God's love in this passage?
6. John is writing to the church about the church. What might the world come to understand about the unseen God by observing the way Christians love one another?
8. Where might God's love have reached you but not yet moved through you? Is there someone you have been willing to love in theory but have struggled to love through action?

Incorporate Love
October 11th 2026

LifeGroup Questions