





#### In previous weeks

Love: According to 1 John

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1. Discerning truth from error



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# Two qualities or evidences of Christian maturity:

- 1. Discerning truth from error
- 2. Capacity to love unconditionally and constructively

### Here's the DEAL

#### I John 4:18-19; 21

Love: According to 1 John

18 There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear.
For fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not been perfected
in love.

19 We love because He first loved us.

#### I John 4:18-19; 21

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20 And this commandment we have from Him; whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Here's the DEAL

#### I John 5:1-3



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- 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.
- 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.



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Pre-existent,
Present,
and Forever
authority who is aware, cares, and moves
on behalf of mankind.

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.

All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Colossians 1:16-17; 19-20



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Biblical 'belief' is the entrusting of yourself to the authority and care of Christ, who is transcendent and immanent at the same time.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with with He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith.

And this in not your own doing;
it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:4-10

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Or

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What do I believe is the baseline intension of the other person?

Is it a 'good willed intention'; are they inclined toward me and to be for me?

or

Is their intention to protect and/or provide for themselves, to get even or to punish, and eventually end up 'using me' or 'destroying me' in the process?

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He died to make *dead* people *alive*, something that requires the resurrection of Christ.

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Christianity is based on **DONE** by Christ that moves us to **LOVE** from a transformed heart.

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Christianity is uniquely based on *God becoming man*.



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The best starting point for loving your kids is to love your spouse.

The best starting point for loving others is to love God and obey Him.



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#### **Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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To believe in "the Christ" is to entrust your life to the "anointed one"..."the King".

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By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

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To be a person of **believing**...

### So, therefore, what now...

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To be a person of *believing*... is to be a person of *loving*...

### So, therefore, what now...

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To be a person of *believing*... is to be a person of *loving*... is to be a person of *obeying*.

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## What do you do with someone whose values or morals are in conflict with yours?

- 1. Embrace the fact that love is a proper integration of truth and grace.
- 2. Decide that there is no place for degrading, demeaning, devaluing, or dehumanize other people.
- 3. At the end of the day, without denying my convictions, God is still the judge, not me.







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