

First John 4:7-21

1. 4:1-6 seems to have been a side note that John wanted to make after having mention the Spirit in the last verse of chapter 3.
2. In 4:7 John returns to continue discussing love as the character trait of a true, mature believer.
3. 3:11-24 discussed loving one another (John's focus is on loving other believers.)
4. What develops in 4:7-21 is consistently about love, but individual thoughts that can build the topic. For example:
 - a. 4:7 – exhortation “love one another”
 - b. 4:7-8 – the simple formula:
 - i. Those who love know God
 - ii. Those who do not love do not know God
 - c. 4:9-11 – God's demonstration of love toward us and the whole world:
 - i. Jesus was sent by God as an atoning sacrifice to save us
 - ii. So, we are obligated to love other believers
 - d. 4:12-13 – Our love is evidence:
 - i. If we love we prove we live in God
 - ii. If we love we prove that God lives in us
 - e. 4:14-15 – A qualification of the God-kind-of-love is given. “Love” demonstrated merely by the world is not the same thing as the love demonstrated by a born again person:
 - i. The Father sent the Son to be Savior
 - ii. Confession of Jesus as the Son sent by the Father means the love you demonstrate is a result of God dwelling in you and you dwelling in the world
 - iii. POINT: The world can show “love”, but the world cannot confess Jesus which means their source of “love” is not God dwelling in them and them dwelling in God.
 - f. 4:16 – Mature believers begin to know and believe the love God has for them which results in them loving because they are in God's love and God's love is in them.
 - g. 4:17-18 – Love in a believer and understood by a believer gives the believer confidence before God (now and at the judgment) and drives out fear (now and at the judgment)
 - h. 4:19 – We love now because God first loved us
 - i. 4:20 – If this love you have from God and for God does not manifest towards your brothers you do not really love God either.
 - j. 4:21 – If you love God you love your brother.
5. “God is love”
 - a. Love explains the “why” of creation.
 - i. Creation is necessary for the nature of God
 - ii. If God is love he cannot exist in isolation
 - iii. Love must have someone to love; someone to love it.
 - b. Love explains that there must be free-will
 - i. If God was only law the world could be a machine much like nature functions of principles.
 - ii. God made men who must have free-will to respond
 - iii. God created man by limiting his own will and giving men a chance to respond
 - c. Love explains providence
 - i. If God were mind, order and law then the theology of the deist would be correct. God created the universe, set it in motion and let it run its course.
 - ii. But, Love demands that God interact with his creation with constant care.
 - d. Love explains redemption
 - i. If God were law and justice then man would have been left to his fate. A deserved fate.

- ii. But, God’s love meant he had to seek out fallen man, provide salvation for fallen man and redeem man to God’s own nature.
- e. Love explains life after death
 - i. If God was only the powerful creator men could live and die like animals.
 - ii. A God of love means what happens in this temporal life is not all there is.

John 4:7 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

27 [e]	25 [e]	240 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
Agapētoi	agapōmen	allēlous	hoti	hē	agapē	ek	tou	Theou
7 Ἀγαπητοί , ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους , ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ Θεοῦ								
Beloved	we should love	one another	because	-	love	from	-	God
Adj-VMP	V-PSA-1P	RecPro-AMP	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS

1510 [e]	2532 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	25 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1080 [e]	2532 [e]
estin	kai	pas	ho	agapōn	ek	tou	Theou	gegennētai	kai
ἔστιν ; καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν , ἐκ τοῦ Θεοῦ γεγέννηται , καὶ									
is	and	everyone	-	loving	from	-	God	has been born	and
V-PIA-3S	Conj	Adj-NMS	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-RIM/P-3S	Conj

1097 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
ginōskei	ton	Theon
γινώσκει τὸν Θεόν .		
knows	-	God
V-PIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS

1. Third of three times John moves to talk about love. (Also in 2:7-11 and 3:11-18)
2. “Dear friends” – *agapetoi* – indicates John is encouraging, explaining and teaching. John is not reprimanding, rebuking or warning his reader’s behavior.
3. “let us love” or “we should love” – *agapomen* – occurs 3x in 4:7-21.
 - a. 4:7 – *agapomen* – “let us love” is an exhortation
 - b. 4:11 – *agapan* – “let us love” is presented to the readers as their duty.
 - i. “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
 - c. 4:12 – *agapomen* – “let us love” is a hypothesis.
 - i. “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”
4. Since God is love and love flows from God our nature should be one of love if we have been born of God.
 - a. Some would argue that because of common grace (and, the fact that all men are created in God’s image) that all men are capable of manifesting some level of the love of God, our creator.
 - b. If this is true, then this should be more true of the person who is born again.

- c. John's focus is on:
- i. Those who are born (*gegennetai*) of God
 1. Present tense of "born" refers to the moment of rebirth and the continuing effect it has on the believer's life after that moment
 - ii. Those who know (*ginoskei*) God
 1. Present tense of "know" is stressing the continued growth in knowledge of God in the believer's life

John 4:8 – "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

	3588 [e]	3361 [e]	25 [e]		3756 [e]	1097 [e]		3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	26 [e]
	ho	mē	agapōn	,	ouk	egnō	ton	Theon	hoti	ho	Theos	agapē	
8	ὁ	μὴ	ἀγαπῶν	,	οὐκ	ἔγνω	τὸν	θεόν	,	ὅτι	ὁ	θεὸς	ἀγάπη
	The [one]	not	loving		not	has known	-	God	because	-	God	love	
	Art-NMS	Adv	V-PPA-NMS		Adv	V-AIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	N-NFS	

1510 [e]
 estin
 ἐστίν .
 is
 V-PIA-3S

1. John restates his explanation in the negative.
2. Absence of love proves the person does not know God.

John 4:9 – “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.”

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	5319 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	
En	toutō	ephanerōthē	hē	agapē	tou	Theou	en	hēmin	hoti	ton	
9	Ἐν	τούτῳ	ἐφανερώθη	ἡ	ἀγάπη	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐν	ἡμῖν	, ὅτι	τὸν
In	this	has been revealed	the	love	-	of God	among	us	that	the	
Prep	DPro-DNS	V-AIP-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Prep	PPro-D1P	Conj	Art-AMS	

5207 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	3439 [e]	649 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	
Huion	autou	ton	monogenē	apestalken	ho	Theos	eis	ton	kosmon	
Υἱὸν	αὐτοῦ	, τὸν	μονογενῆ	, ἀπέσταλκεν	ὁ	Θεὸς	εἰς	τὸν	κόσμον	,
Son	of Him	the	one and only	has sent	-	God	into	the	world	
N-AMS	PPro-GM3S	Art-AMS	Adj-AMS	V-RIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	

2443 [e]	2198 [e]	1223 [e]	846 [e]
hina	zēsōmen	di'	autou
ἵνα	ζήσωμεν	δι'	αὐτοῦ
so that	we might live	through	Him
Conj	V-ASA-1P	Prep	PPro-GM3S

1. “*monogenes*”
 - a. Translated “one and only”
 - b. 9x in the NT:
 - i. Luke 7:12 – “a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow”
 - ii. Luke 8:42 – “for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.”
 - iii. Luke 9:38 – “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child.”
 - iv. Heb. 11:17 –
 - v. John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18;
 - vi. 1 John 4:9)
2. “the Son of him” – *ton huion autou* – emphasizes the uniqueness of Christ.