

---

## LESSON 7

April 13, 2025

### Unit II: Christ's All-sufficient Sacrifice

# All You Need Is Love

DEVOTIONAL READING: Isaiah 59:1-8

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: 1 John 2:1-6; 4:7-21

PRINT PASSAGES: 1 John 2:1-6; 4:9-17

## KEY VERSE

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10, KJV)

.....

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10, NIV)

## LESSON AIMS

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Identify the issues that could arise in reminding the people of Christ's atoning sacrifice.
- Be assured in the knowledge of God's love.
- Exhibit God's love through a concrete act of loving one another.

## \*KEY TERMS

**Advocate (2:1)**—Greek: *paraklétos* (par-ak'-lay-tos): "called to one's aid;" (a) an intercessor; (b) a consoler, comforter, helper; (c) Paraclete.

**Begotten (4:9)**—Greek: *monogenés* (mon-og-en-ace'): "one and only" (NIV); "one of a kind"—literally, "one (*monos*) of a class, *genos*" (the *only* of its kind).

**Confess (4:15)**—Greek: *homologeó* (hom-ol-og-eh'-o): to speak the same, to agree; publicly declare; admit; "acknowledges" (NIV).

**Propitiation (2:2)**—Greek: *hilasmos* (hil-as-mos'): an offering to appease (satisfy) an angry, offended party; the literal meaning is "a sacrifice of atonement to gain a deity's favor;" "atoning sacrifice" (NIV).

\*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)

## INTRODUCTION

"I Will Always Love You"; "What's Love Got to Do with It?"; "I Can't Help Falling



### The Biblical Context

Tradition states that the apostle John, one of Jesus' closest disciples, authored 1 John and two other epistles—the gospel of John and the book of Revelation. John composed this epistle during cultural, philosophical, and religious unrest in the Greco-Roman world at the close of the first century AD. By the time he wrote 1 John, John was the aged, sole survivor of Jesus' twelve apostles, living in Ephesus and overseeing and ministering to churches in the area. The immediate religious threat to these churches was false teachers from within their ranks promoting popular philosophical beliefs and false doctrine contrary to essential apostolic teaching. These false teachers advocated new ideas that eventually emerged as Gnosticism. This philosophy denied Christ's humanity, acknowledged alternate forms of His deity, and claimed an elevated form of knowledge that only those initiated into it could understand. Therefore, as he was a concerned spiritual leader, John's primary purpose for composing this epistle was to combat this spiritually damaging false teaching while expressing deep concern for their spiritual welfare.

in Love with You”; “Love Makes the World Go Round”; “Crazy in Love”—these and countless other songs capture different aspects of love and offer a human perspective on the universal experience with love in all its complexity. Music and literary works about love are not limited to a secular romantic focus but also a spiritual focus highlighting God's love for humanity and believers' love for Him. The church sings “I Really Love the Lord,” “Jesus, I Love You,” “No Greater Love,” and “For God So Loved the World”; however, the essential question in both arenas is whether our concept of love matches God's concept. People claim to “love” everything from pizza to pancakes, and from parents to fried chicken. God is the legitimate source for defining and demonstrating true love. The Bible teaches that “love is from God” and “God is love” (see 1 John 4:7-8). Love is the essence of God and the demonstration of selfless, unconditional love that seeks the best for its object. In 1 John, John emphasizes that showing this kind of love is a test and proof of an authentic relationship with God, is inextricably related to our obedience to His commandments, and makes Him visible to the world. God says that the world can only “see” Him and prove His existence through

believers who visibly and practically manifest His love to one another. What a challenge to the church! God extended the greatest love of all when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the sacrificial atonement for our sins.

### ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

#### Love's Foundation: “Walk the Talk” (1 John 2:1-6)

##### KJV

**MY LITTLE children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

**2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**

**3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.**  
**4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**  
**5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.**  
**6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

### **NIV**

**MY DEAR children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**  
**2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**  
**3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.**  
**4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.**  
**5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:**  
**6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.**

John begins chapter 2 affectionately addressing his readers as his “dear children,” expressing his strong desire that they not sin but practice consistent holiness because they were regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Although believers should first strive for holiness, John assures that if sin occurs, every believer has an advocate, Jesus Christ, who speaks to God the Father in their defense (**verse 1**). John pictures Jesus as a defense attorney taking up his client’s case before a court of justice. The basis for Christ’s advocacy on sinning believers’ behalf is His all-sufficient sacrifice on the Cross that satisfied God’s wrath against sin, making His saving grace available to the saved and unsaved (**verse 2**). John further assured his audience by giving them two ways through which to be sure that they belong to Christ. First, those claiming to know Christ must obey His commands (**verse 3**). Consequently, anyone who claims to know Christ but lives disobediently does not know Him, and the truth is not a dynamic controlling influence in such a person’s life. John describes these people as liars (**verse 4**). By contrast, showing obedience to God’s Word allows the believer to experience God’s love intimately (**verse 5**).

The second way for one to know and be assured of a genuine relationship with God is by modeling his or her life after Jesus’, emulating His lifestyle of obedience, and obeying His Word (**verse 6**). Thus, “walking the talk”—living out one’s faith obediently—proves that a professing believer’s relationship with God is authentic and is foundational for demonstrating love for Him and others. Therefore, believers’ responsibilities are to consistently know, understand, and obey God’s Word and pursue becoming more like Christ daily.

### **? WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**What happens when one professes to know God but does not obey Him?**



## Love's Manifestation and Visibility (*1 John 4:9-17*)

### KJV

**9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

**10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

**12** No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

**13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

**14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

**15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

**16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

**17** Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

### NIV

**9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

**10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**13** This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

**14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

**16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

**17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

John returned to the theme of love after emphasizing how his readers could discern the spirits of truth from those of falsehood (see 1 John 4:1-6). He encouraged his audience to love one another because God is love's source and identifies those who fail to love as not knowing Him

(because love is His essence). In **verse 9**, John reveals how God manifested or visibly showed His love for humanity—sending His only Son into the world so that believers might live through Him. God took the initiative and sent His Son to be the propitiation for humankind’s sins. His sacrificial death on the Cross satisfied God’s wrath toward sinners (**verse 10**). Thus, propitiation underscores the depths of God’s love for and the lengths to which He has gone to redeem unworthy humanity and provide the path to right standing with Him. As a response to this great love, John urged his readers to follow God’s example by loving one another unconditionally (**verse 11**). He then transitioned from showing his audience how God manifested His love through Jesus Christ to how this love can make Him visible to believers and the world.

In **verse 12**, John affirms that God the Father has never been seen at any time by any living human. However, by obeying the command to love, the invisible God reveals Himself to others through believers’ lives, thus completing or perfecting His love. The indwelling Holy Spirit makes the capacity to display God’s love possible, providing another proof of an authentic relationship with Him (**verse 13**). Hence, believers’ love for one another makes Christ the Son visible to the world and validates the proclamation that God sent Him to be the world’s Savior (**verse 14**). Anyone acknowledging and believing this truth proves his or her sharing in a mutual, intimate relationship with God (**verse 15**). Therefore, believers can understand and experience the essence of God—which is love—and are enabled to live in a manner aligning with His nature (**verse 16**).

**Verse 17** presents the results of love perfected in believers’ lives when it demonstrates the reality of their salvation—confidence and assurance that they will be acceptable at the final judgment. Summarily, the message and challenge to the church is to recognize that modeling God’s unconditional love toward one another is the most effective way to make Him visible to the world. When the world sees the faith community living out love through compassionate care and concern—showing kindness to and forgiving one another—they make God real, visible, and attractive. Consequently, they will ensure that His loving presence will remain active and vital in worship, evangelistic outreach, and ministry.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If embodying love in our daily lives reflects God’s presence, then what messages is the faith community sending to the world?

### A CLOSING THOUGHT

This lesson answers the question “What’s love got to do with it?”—everything. From God’s perspective, demonstrating and reflecting His love validates our professions of faith in Him, proves that He abides in us, and makes Him visible to the world. Believers are expected to love one another in response to God’s great love, manifested through Christ’s atoning sacrifice for sin, as empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit and linked with obedience to the Word. Consequently, the church must recall that believing in God is more than a verbal affirmation; it is proven by embodying God’s love in everyday actions and interpersonal relationships aligned with God’s nature—unconditional love.

## YOUR LIFE

No matter how loudly and exuberantly one claims to know and love God, the acid test is how much one shows His love to others. Therefore, what's your "Love Quotient" (LQ)? How consistently are you demonstrating compassionate care for others, kindness, nonjudgmental acceptance, and forgiveness? This week, prayerfully consider how you can align your "talk with your walk" by obeying God's command to love unconditionally.

## YOUR WORLD!

Class, hate, wars, rumors of war, political and economic instability, and multiple forms of social injustice characterize this nation and world. The world needs to see love—God's love—reflected in the lives of those professing knowing and following Christ. For believers, the call to embody God's love is not a suggestion but a command. Therefore, consider some tangible ways that your congregation can practice making God's love visible and accessible in your community.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God of love, as we live to reflect Your great love, help us to make You visible to the world. Strengthen us as we commit to live in obedience to Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## CONCLUSION

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Next week's lesson explores how Jesus' death and resurrection were related to the Temple and the Old Testament's sacrificial system.

### Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, April 14	"I Will Rise Again"	(Psalm 71:12-24)
TUESDAY, April 15	"Made Perfect through Suffering"	(Hebrews 2:1-13)
WEDNESDAY, April 16	"The Provider"	(Genesis 22:1-14)
THURSDAY, April 17	"Servanthood, Suspicion, and a Sign"	(Matthew 26:17-30)
FRIDAY, April 18	"Darkness, Despair, and Death"	(Matthew 27:39-40, 45-54)
SATURDAY, April 19	"Ransomed!"	(Psalm 49:1-15)
SUNDAY, April 20	"He Has Risen!"	(Matthew 28:1-10)

### Notes