

**I. Introduction.**

**II. God first loved us. v. 19b**

- A. When did God first love us? Ephesians 1:4
- B. Whom does God love in this way? Ephesians 1:4b-7 Romans 8:28-30
- C. Why does God love us? Ephesians 2:1-3
  - 1. God does not love us because of anything worthy in us. Rom. 5:10 3:23,10f 8:7-8
  - 2. God sovereignly loves the undeserving.
  - 3. God drew us to Himself and gave us life. Jo. 6:44 1:12-13 Eph. 2:4-9
- D. How has God shown His love for us?
  - 1. He chose us, in love, before we were born. Eph. 1:4
  - 2. He sent His Son to die for us. 4:9-10
  - 3. He opened our blind eyes and softened our hardened hearts that we might repent and believe. John 6:37
  - 4. We are secure in His love. 4:17-18 Romans 8:31-39

**III. We love. v. 19a**

- A. All true believers love!
- B. God's love causes our love. 4:10
- C. Whom do we love?

**IV. Your love for God is proven by your love for the brethren. v. 20 John 13:35**

- A. If you love God, you will certainly love your brothers. Mt. 22:37-40
- B. If you don't love your brother, you cannot love God.
  - 1. Why is it impossible for one who hates his seen brother to love the unseen God?
  - 2. It is easy to say you love God. You prove your love for God by loving others.
  - 3. You have more concrete opportunities to express love to brethren. 4:12
  - 4. If you don't love the visible manifestation of God's image, you cannot love the invisible God.
  - 5. Love for the brethren is counted as love to Christ. Mt. 25:34-40
  - 6. Some who claim to love God prove they are liars by their lack of love for the brethren. 2:9,11, 3:15
- C. Is your love for God proven by your love for us?
  - 1. Do you love us as God has loved you? Mark 1:40-41 6:34
  - 2. Do you love all the brethren?
  - 3. Are you still self centered? II Ti. 3:2
  - 4. It is encouraging to see so much of the love of the brethren among us.
  - 5. What is your response to the human need around you? Luke 10:25-37
- D. Your actions affect all of us. Heb. 10:24 John 13:34-35 I Peter 4:9-11

**V. God commands us to love. v. 21**

- A. The fact that our love is the certain result of God's love for us does not eliminate our need to be exhorted to love. Mark 12:29-31 Gal. 5:14 Rom. 13:8-10 John 14:15**
- B. Nor does it eliminate our need to exert effort in loving one another.**
- C. How can we fulfill this commandment to love? The main instrument God uses to bring forth obedient love in us is not fear of punishment, but His prior love for us.**

**VI. Concluding applications.**

**Discussion questions**

- 1. When did God first love us?**
- 2. Whom does God love?**
- 3. Why did God love us?**
- 4. Why do we love?**
- 5. Why can't a person who loves God hate his brother?**
- 6. Why does God command us to love, if our love is the certain result of His love?**
- 7. What would you say to someone who says he can't love certain people because to do so would be insincere.**
- 8. Write down three ways in which you plan to exercise Christlike love in the following week.**