

1 John 4:7–21

A Life Truly Changed By God's Love

Stop to think about a person who truly impacted your life. They may be a grandparent, a mentor, a friend. In what way did your life change as a result of knowing them??

Consider for a moment your life before you met Jesus. What did you think you were gaining when you chose to accept God's love for you? Do you wonder?

What difference has God's love for you made in your life since that time?

Read Passage in Message

A. *We have Known v. 16*

1. Different translations

A. NASB

A. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

B. Message

A. We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

C. NRSV

A. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

D. NKJV

A. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.

E. NIV

A. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

F. SDHv

A. "We have fully recognized and fully bought into God's love for us"

2. What else have we “known”? *εγνωκαμεν* elsewhere in 1 John

A. Same Verb Tense

- A. 2:3, We have known him - when we keep his commandments
- B. 3:16, We have known love - when we imitate Jesus by laying down our lives

B. Same Verb other tenses

- A. 2:5, we know we are in him
- B. 2:13-14, we know him
- C. ~~18, Last Hour~~
- D. 2:29, we know He is righteous and everyone practicing righteousness is born of him
- E. ~~3:19, We love in deed and truth~~
- F. ~~3:24, keeps commandments~~
- G. 4:2, 6, we know the Spirit of God
- H. 4:13, we know we abide in him

B. We have believed v. 16

1. What else have we “believed”? *πεπιστευκαμεν* elsewhere

- A. John 6:69, we have believed Jesus is the Holy One of God (only usage)
- B. Present Subjunctive: 3:23, His commandment is twofold: that we believe the name of his Son Jesus and that we love one another
- C. Perfect Negative Case “NOT believed,” 5:10, the testimony God gave about his Son

C. The love God has for us

1. How does John describe us when we exercise this love?

- A. 2:5, God’s love is complete when one keeps his Word/commandments
- B. 3:1, We understand that any love we exercise originates with the Father

C. 3:17, We help our fellow believers when we see their need and we have the worldly resources to help.

D. So, what kind of difference can this love make?

1. How does John describe God's love?

- A. 3:1 - we are called children of God
- B. 3:16 - he laid down his life for us
- C. 4:9 - he sent his only Son to give us life
- D. 4:10 - he sent his Son to atone for our sins

2. 1 John 3:18

- A. Love in deed and truth (action) not with words and speech

“We have fully recognized and fully bought into God's love for us”

1 John 5:10-12

“The person who is trusting the Son of God holds this testimony in their heart and mind, the person who is not trusting God has already declared God a liar simply because he has not believed the testimony that God himself provided concerning his Son.

This is that testimony: God has given us life of the ages, life found only in his Son. The person who is abiding in the Son has this life, the person who is not abiding in the Son of God does not have this life of the ages.”

God's Love and Eternal Life are interwoven.

As He loved, so too shall we love.

Eternal Life is fellowship (abiding) in the Son and in the Father and with each other.