

# Loving God's People in Community (1 John 4:7-21)

*Four Priorities for Life – Part 6*

Life Church St. Louis – August 3, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Ephesians 2:19-20 (NIV) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

## 1. Love one another in \_\_\_\_\_

*1 John 4:7a (NIV) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*

### 1A. True \_\_\_\_\_ love one another

*1 John 4:7b (NIV) Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

### 1B. Those who \_\_\_\_\_ one another don't know God

*1 John 4:8 (NIV) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ God's example of love

### 2A. God \_\_\_\_\_ His Son to show love

*1 John 4:9-10 (NIV) 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. This is love:*

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

### 2B. God \_\_\_\_\_ in those who love

*1 John 4:11-12 (NIV) Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

### 2C. Believers \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is the Son of God

*1 John 4:15 (NIV) If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.*

## 3. Love with the love of \_\_\_\_\_

*1 John 4:19 (NIV) We love because he first loved us.*

### 3A. You cannot love God outside the \_\_\_\_\_

*1 John 4:20 (NIV) If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*

### 3B. Your love for God is \_\_\_\_\_ by loving one another

*1 John 4:21 (NIV) And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

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## Study Guide

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Intro. Why do you think that 51% of people think that attending church is not important?

What reasons do people you know give for not attending church?

According to Ephesians 2:19-20, what is the church?

What do you think accounts for the different percentage of born again believers in denominations (for example: Assemblies of God (81%), Catholic (25%))?

1A. Why is it only possible to love one another in the context of a church community (1 John 4:7a)?

1B. How does knowing God enable a person to love others (1 John 4:7b)?

1C. In what ways is loving other believers the evidence for being a true believer (1 John 4:8)?

1D. What are ways that you can show your love for others on Sunday mornings?

2A. How is God's sacrifice of Jesus an example of love for us to follow (1 John 4:9-10)?

2B. What does it mean for God to live in you and have His love made complete in you (1 John 4:11-12)?

2C. What is the relationship between faith in Jesus Christ and loving others (1 John 4:14)?

2D. What sacrifices of time, talent or treasure for your church community can you grow in?

3A. In what ways does God's initial love give you an example to follow in loving others (1 John 4:19)?

3B. Based on 1 John 4:20, why is it impossible for someone outside of a church community to love God?

3C. Why are Life Groups an important way to grow in loving God and loving others (1 John 4:21)? How do you think we can move toward 100% participation as a church?