**Digging Deeper Study**

**LOVE**

**1 John 4:7-12**

**12/22/2024**

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| 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.  8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.  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. | Warm up question?  Think of someone who you know loves/loved you. How did you know?   1. What is the significance of the statement: Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God?   Galatians 3:26-4:7. Talks about this new birth. What stands out to you about this?  What are ways that you know God? Why is it important to continue to learn and be reminded about who God is?   1. Why is loving and God so connected? 2. Do you ever think about how God’s love is different from what the world teaches love is? Discuss different ideas of love that you have heard before.   How can you distinguish godly love from worldly love?   1. What does the statement: “Not that we loved God, but that He loved us” mean to you?   Why is this important for us to understand?   1. Why is Jesus’ example of love so compelling?   What does an atoning sacrifice mean? How did Jesus do this?   1. We read that we are to love one another. What makes this difficult to do?   How well do you think you love one another?  Would you say you love more like those whom Jesus talks about in Luke 6:32 or in Luke 6:35?  What makes 6:32 easier than the other?  What makes the one in Luke 6:35 possible?   1. Why does our love show whether or not God is living or thriving in us?   Take some time to gage and reflect on how you are doing in the area of love. God wants to build us all up in this.  He already has given us every spiritual gift we need (2 Peter 1:3-4).  What are two practical steps you can take to help you grow in God’s love.  Close in Prayer.  20Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,  21equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. |