

**duplicating  
discipleship**

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● **lesson nine**

the love of john the apostle

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## Lesson 9: The Love of John the Apostle

[You can impress from a distance, but you can only impact up close.](#)      [Howard G. Hendricks](#)

Is there a word that best describes you? Is there a word that is the most common in your talk?

We come to know John the Apostle by his reputation, but also by his words. His reputation comes from the gospels (the disciple whom Jesus loved – John 20:2). His words are basically from his three epistles – Gospels tell us what he “did” – the three epistles tell us what he “thought.”

**Reputation** – Clues from scripture

- Chosen as one of inner intimate three closest to Jesus (Mark 5:37; Matthew 17:1)  
These two episodes represent the best and the worst of times – who do you want with you at these times and why?

Was this selection a responsibility or a privilege?

Have you ever been specially chosen?

- John was chosen to care for the mother of Jesus (John 19:26-27). Who would you choose to care for your family members if you were gone?
- What qualities would you look for in someone prior to trusting them?

- What traits would rule out someone from such a job?
- John described himself as the disciples whom Jesus loved... Was he more special than the others to Jesus? What explain this understanding that John had of Jesus?
- John was loved enough to be rebuked (Luke 9:54-56) Hebrews 12:6 says "Whom the Lord loves He disciplines." Was this rebuke time well spent? Why?

#### **His Words –**

Count the number of times *some form* of the word "love" is used in his three epistles and *contemplate* the context of each time. Actually take a few minutes and count them! How many times did you count?

What conclusion can you draw about the vocabulary and the thoughts of John?

What would be some other good words to dominate out thinking and communication?

The three epistles are:

1. Calls to love others – 1 John 4:7 – Find companion verses in 1 John saying similar.
2. It is about how we are loved? 1 John 4:10 - Find companion verses in 1 John saying similar thoughts.

Who/what type of people do you find difficult to love?

How could reading and rereading 1 John change your vocabulary and thoughts about God and others?

According to 1 John, name some benefits to the believer of being loved of the Lord.

According to 1 John, name some benefit to others from being loved.

Lastly, according to 1 John, name some benefits to you for loving others.

Modern-day example of Love for Others: Rev. Manuel Martinez

There is hardly a man with a bigger heart for people than Pastor Manuel. It is so clear that he loves people. He enjoys being with them and getting to know them better. The love that Manuel has for people flows out of his love for God and His Word. He is compassionate and caring. He is moved



by the things that are taking place in others' lives. His arms are wide open to children, to Sr. Adults and to all those in between.