**Title: We Love Because He First Loved Us**

**Text: 1 John 4:7–21**

**CONNECT: August 3, 2025**

**Connect to One Another:**

* For this week’s Mission Moment read the recent update from Lisa Livgren (located in your Connect folders). Pray for Lisa, for Niddrie Community Church, and for those needs in your Connect group.
* As a Connect group, try to come up with three reasons it is imperative that a church know how to distinguish authentic Christians from counterfeits. What three tests has John identified? Be specific.

**Connect to the WORD:** **Read 1 John 4:7–21**

“Because God loved us first and now abides in us, we must love one another as we abide in God.”

**I. God’s Actions Toward Us**

* **God loves us (vv. 19, 7–8, 10–11).** In what way did God’s love take the initiative (v. 19)? How does God’s love empower our love (vv. 7–8)? How was God’s love demonstrated (vv. 10–11)? How would you respond to someone who lacks assurance of God’s personal love?
* **God sent His Son for us (vv. 9–10, 14).** What does it mean that Jesus is our propitiation (v. 10)? How is that we “live through him” (v. 9)?
* **God abides in us by His Spirit (vv. 12–13, 15–16).** When did God’s Spirit begin to indwell us? What is the effect of this abiding? Read v. 13 again. How can this verse be used to help someone gain assurance?

**II. Our Response Toward Him**

* **We love (vv. 19, 7, 12, 17–18, 20–21).** How does Christian love differ from the love of the world? Describe in practical terms what Christian love looks like. Describe a time when you saw God’s love made visible in someone else’s love for you. Examine your love for God and for His saints. Does it give you confidence as you face the day of judgment? How ought you to respond if you do not find evidence of Christian love in your life?
* **We believe (vv. 15–16).** What does someone who has been born of God believe?
* **We abide (vv. 13, 15–16).** What does it mean to abide in God? What does this look like on a daily basis? What is the connection between abiding in God and loving God and others?

**CONNECT to Walk It Out:**

* Abide in God this week. Make a plan, and stick to it. Be diligent and disciplined, for unless you abide in God you can do nothing (Jn 15:5).
* Love one another. Determine one specific way in which you will love one specific individual this week. Do not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth.

**Meditate on these verses this week:**

**1 John 4:7–21; John 15:1–11**