



# Young People's Bible Teacher

March, April, May 2017

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SPRING QUARTER

*For Teachers of Adults Ages 18 Through 25*



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The Love of God

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## Scripture Lesson Text

**1 JOHN 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

**8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.**

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

**10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

**12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spir'it.

**14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

15 Whosoever shall confess that Je'sus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

**16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

**18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

### NOTES

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edness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only.  
"They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

# The Source of All Love

## Lesson: I John 4:7-19

Read: I John 4:7-19

TIME: about A.D. 90-95

PLACE: probably from Ephesus

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:11).

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## *Lesson Exposition*

If you ask your students what they love most, you will likely get a variety of answers. Everything from food, sports teams, work, and forms of entertainment, to pets, family members, and, yes, even God, will be identified.

For many, the word "love" simply means "like" and is often confused with affections and attractions or simply what brings gratification.

Since the theme of this quarter centers around God's love, it is important to stress that the love the Bible speaks of is both different from and higher than the kind of love usually mentioned when we talk about those things we love. An accurate understanding of love must come from God, for He alone is the true source of love.

### **PURSUING LOVE—I John 4:7-9**

**Born of God (I John 4:7-8).** Because of his emphasis on love in both his Gospel and this epistle, John is often referred to as the apostle of love. Since love is from God, John exhorted his readers to love one another. Inspired by God's love, God's children must love one another. An absence of such love indicates that a person does not really know God or is not truly born

again. Sadly, some church members are very unloving people, indicating that something is seriously amiss.

In John's day, Gnostic heretics were infiltrating the church. Among other things, these false teachers claimed knowledge not possessed by others. Besides love, John stated that the truly born again will have faith (I John 5:1), avoid sinful behavior (3:9), and live righteously (2:29).

Simply professing to know God is not sufficient evidence to conclude that a person is a genuine disciple of Christ. Even such things as prophesying, exorcising demons, and performing signs and wonders do not necessarily mean that a person is a real Christian (cf. Matt. 7:21-23).

Since "God is love" (I John 4:8), this dominant attribute of our Heavenly Father must be seen in those who profess to know Him.

"God loves because it is his nature to love, not because our attractiveness has drawn love out of him. . . . We are all sinners and thus unattractive to God. He loves us, not because of what we are, but because of what he is" (Morris, *New Testament Theology*, Zondervan).