

03 • Love Wants the Best for Others

1 John 4 has been a launching point for us throughout this series.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is **from** God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God **is** love. In this the love of God was made **manifest** among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

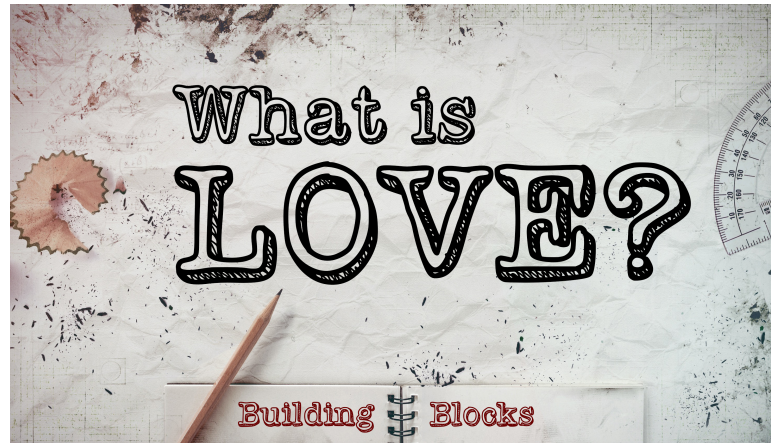
Beloved, if God so loved us, **we** also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is **perfected** in us. (4:7-12)

Sadly, a lot of people live by the motto Jesus referenced in **Matthew 5:43**, "You shall **love** your neighbor and **hate** your enemy." But Jesus called us to follow him on a different path (**Matt 5:44-48**)—the path of treating others the way we would like to be treated (**Matt 7:12**).

What's that look like in everyday terms? A clear picture is given to us in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**:

Love is **patient** and kind; love does **not** envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not **insist** on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love **bears** all things, believes all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things.

Love honors the God who loved us first. We learn from him to love others as we've been loved by God.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's think through Jesus' words in **Matthew 5:43-48**. What is he helping us see? What do we need to understand and apply?
- What does **Luke 10:25-37** add to our exploration of "What is love?"
- Let's revisit **1 Corinthians 13** and think together through these attributes of love...
 - Patient
 - Kind
 - Doesn't envy or boast
 - Isn't arrogant or rude
 - Doesn't insist on own way
 - Isn't irritable or resentful
 - Doesn't rejoice at wrong
 - Rejoices with the truth
 - Bears all things
 - Believes all things
 - Hopes all things
 - Endures all things
- What must I do to love like that? How does it happen?