

## Love in Action

(1 John 3:16)

A theme that is present in the first letter of John is love—God’s love for us, loving those around us, not loving the worldly system opposed to God. Love. But what is it?

Many talk about it and wonder where it is. God’s love, agape, is sacrificial, enduring and motivated out of concern. This type of love is about giving without expecting anything in return. It is an act of the will not feelings.

This is how we know what love looks like—Jesus on the cross. He loves us so much that He willingly gave up His life that we might be saved, redeemed and restored.

We could not help ourselves. So He bore our sin, shame and punishment on the cross even when we were in our sins—objects of wrath.

But God demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10). God is love.

Jesus laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for each other.

Since God so loved us, we ought to love each other (1 John 4:10)

That we demonstrate our love for each other sacrificially. It is not enough to not do wrong to each other, we must lay our lives down for each other. Reach out to each other, to give and help each other.

If we see the needs of the family of God around us and do nothing, how can the love of God be in us? Let us love with actions and truth (1 John 3:18).

Christ is our example. We know what love is because of Him.

This love comes at a cost where we give at expense to ourselves. That is the type of love God demonstrated and the type we are called to share with each other each day.