

08 – 1 John 4:7-21 – Knowing the unseen God

“Dear friends, let us love one another”.

...we need to know what love looks like.

Things 1 John has said about love

... NOT to love the world.

... to love God and to love our fellow Christians

... love for our fellow Christians will be costly and driven by a heart that cares for people.

1 John 4:7 ... called to love one another.

What is the definition of that love?

v 8, “God is love”.

1) Knowing God who is love (7-12)

v 7, ... love comes from God.

v 9 ... God’s love is seen in the Son... in Jesus.

... this love that spills out of him has everything to do with his desire for us to ‘be saved’ or us to be ‘rescued from our sins’ so that we can enjoy him for all eternity.

... v 12, not just an intellectual exercise and nor it is simply about us.

2) Relying on God’s love. (v13-16)

Jesus enables us to know God and God’s Spirit enables us to know and confess that Jesus has been sent as the saviour of the world.

v 15 ... a heart confession.

... therefore do not need to seek other alternative, fresh ways of salvation that the gnostic thinking false teachers were offering.

3) Confidence in God who is love (v16b-18)

v 16b-18 ...implications

... we can be confident before God on the day of judgement.

4) Obeying God who is love (19-21)

v19 ... He first loved us.

Romans 5 ... “God demonstrates his own love for us in this while we were still sinners Christ died for us”.

v 21 ... if we do love God the flow on effect of this will be to love our brother and sister in Christ.

For us today

How can I show God shaped, Salvation focussed, Gospel hearted, Spirit inspired, Word of God directed, self sacrificial love ...

How we can do this better?

- 1) Know God better**
- 2) Confident assurance of salvation won for you by Jesus**
- 3) Proclaim trust about Jesus**
- 4) Use the things you have to show love to one another**