

**Life Group Commentary 1 John 4:7-12 “Love Driven Evangelism”**  
**For the Sermon Preached on Sun Jan 14 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Jan 21**

**Icebreaker Question**

Which of your parents are you most like? Which parent do you look like? Which parent do you act like more? If you have kids, what about them? Whom do they look more like?

**Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline**

- I. Love must be the driving force for our evangelism (vv. 7, 9, 11).**
  - a. Love for God should be a driving force for evangelism (v. 7).
  - b. Love for Gospel should be a driving force for evangelism (v. 9).
  - c. Love for the lost people in our circle of influence should be a driving force for evangelism (v. 11).
- II. Love is what attracts people to our Gospel appeal (vv. 7, 11).**
  - a. The Gospel message is appealing when we demonstrate love for one another (v. 7).
  - b. The Gospel message is appealing when we demonstrate love for unbelievers (vv. 9-11; 1 Cor. 13:1).
    - Four Signs You’re Loving the Lost
    - i. If I love the lost, I sincerely and specifically pray for lost people.
    - ii. If I love the lost, I prioritize giving time to them.
    - iii. If I love the lost, I see them as people, not as an object of my evangelism goals.
    - iv. If I love the lost, I take the risk of sharing about Jesus with them.
- III. Love should be the driving force that ensures our lifestyles allow for evangelistic conversations with those in our circle of influence (vv. 10-11; 1 Pet. 3:15).**
  - a. What is lifestyle evangelism (1 Pet. 3:15)?
    - Lifestyle evangelism calls Christians to live a holy life that captures the attention of neighbors and coworkers to earn a chance to share the gospel.
  - b. 7 Ways to Live Out 1 Peter 3:15.
    - i. Know the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
    - ii. Live your life in light of this gospel (1 Pet. 3:15).
    - iii. Be willing to share your life with unbelievers (1 Thess. 2:1-8).
    - iv. Share the gospel with urgency (2 Peter 3:9-10).
    - v. Invite unbelievers to respond to the gospel (Rom. 10:13-14).
    - vi. Invite unbelievers to church (John 1:41-42).
    - vii. Trust Christ for the results.

Bill Bright: *“Successful witnessing is taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.”*

**1 John 4:7-11**

**Read 1 John 4:7-8: Observation**

1. According to John, where does love come from?
2. How can we identify those who have been born of God?
3. What does John say about those who do not love others?

**Interpretation**

4. In v. 7 John talks about people being “born of God.” Also, take some time to read 1 John 2:29; 3:9; and 5:4, 18. What does it mean to be born of God? How is the image of parents making a baby and brining new life into the world an apt metaphor for what God does for us?
5. God’s children look like their father. According to 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7, and 5:4, 18 what does it mean for a Christian to “look like dad”? Explain each of these.

**Application**

6. Work your way back through the list of attributes possessed by God’s children in #5 above and answer the following questions:

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- What can I do to act like my heavenly father in this area this week?
  - What is coming up this week that will make acting like my heavenly father in this area difficult?
  - What steps can I take to overcome those difficulties and serve God well?
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**1 John 4:9-10**

**Read 1 John 4:9-10: Observation**

7. How did God manifest his love for us?
8. According to the end of v. 9, what did the Son provide for us?
9. According to John, which came first: our love for God or his love for us?
10. According to v. 10, what did Jesus provide for us?

**Interpretation**

11. In practical terms, what does it mean that we have life through Christ? What does it mean that the Father sent the Son to be a propitiation for our sins?

**Application**

12. Memorize 1 John 4:10 this week and share this verse with someone who does not know Christ to remind them that God loves them.
  13. Take some time and brainstorm with your group all the ways that God has shown his love toward you this week. Write them down. Make sure you take some additional time throughout the week to thank God in prayer for his goodness to you.
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**1 John 4:11-12**

**Read 1 John 4:11-12: Observation**

14. In v. 11 what does John say God did? What should we do as a result?
15. According to John in v. 12, has anyone ever seen God?
16. What does God call us to do in v. 12? What does he promise to do in return?

**Interpretation**

17. There are four amazing truths in vs. 11-12.
  - If God loved us, we ought to love one another.
  - Our love for one another is how the world will see a God who is, in a real sense, unseeable.
  - God abides in us.
  - God is perfecting or completing his love in us.

What do you think John means by each of these? How do these truths change the way we think about the world and about how we share our faith with others?

**Application**

18. Brainstorm with your group some practical ways you can show love this week to the people with whom you are sharing your faith. Make a plan and do it!
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