

## *How to Look More Like Jesus*

### *1 John 4:7-19*

Possibly the most important and consequential descriptive statement about God in all of Scripture is this: “\_\_\_\_\_.” It is a testament to Who God \_\_\_\_, not just what He \_\_\_\_\_. He loves, of course, but He loves because love is Who He is. Love is His \_\_\_\_\_.

John says we can verify his assertion about God by looking at what He has \_\_\_\_\_. “He sent His Son into the world as an atoning sacrifice for our sins that we might live through Him.” Jesus’ action perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ real love. It isn’t a mere \_\_\_\_\_ or sentiment. Nor is it a self-\_\_\_\_\_ activity. It is self-sacrificing--done purely for the benefit of the thing loved.

John penned this phrase to address a pressing problem. People who once claimed faith in Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus and John’s church (see **1 John 2:19**). Those still in the church were fearful that maybe they too were not truly saved. After all, the people who left said they had received Jesus. What \_\_\_\_\_ could they look for to see if they were really born of God and knew God? John’s answer: “let us love one another, for love comes \_\_\_\_\_. Like Jesus, Christians are repeatedly called to lay down their lives for one another by meeting the physical needs of others through \_\_\_\_\_ with one another and by meeting the emotional and spiritual needs of others by \_\_\_\_\_ with one another and \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

But being born of God and knowing God doesn’t make love \_\_\_\_\_. It enables us to love as He loves. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ about our love for one another. It must be cultivated.

As Christ-followers, we are called to a self-giving, self-denying love for one another. Since God is love, love is God’s nature, but it \_\_\_\_\_ in our nature. Enabled by God’s \_\_\_\_\_ within us, however, we can \_\_\_\_\_ loving one another, helping, forgiving, building up one another, until His kind of love becomes \_\_\_\_\_ to us.