

1.IN VERSE 19, JOHN HAS SAID THAT WE LOVE GOD BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US. HE LOVED US EVEN WHEN WE DIDN'T LOVE HIM. IF WE NEVER LOVE HIM, HE WILL STILL KEEP LOVING US. THE SIMPLE, PROFOUND STATEMENT IN VERSE 8 SAYS IT ALL, "GOD IS LOVE".

2.NOW IN VERSE 20, JOHN MAKES A HARSH STATEMENT. HE SAID, "IF WE SAY WE LOVE GOD AND HATE OUR BROTHER AND SISTER, WE ARE LIARS".

3.JESUS, IN JOHN 13:38, TOLD US, "BY THIS ALL WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER." THE OLD CHORUS WAS RIGHT: "THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE".

4.JOHN SAYS THIS IS AN IMPERATIVE, A COMMAND FROM JESUS, "THAT WHOEVER LOVES GOD LOVES HIS BROTHER (SISTER) ALSO". HAVING BEEN BORN OF GOD GIVES US THE ABILITY TO LOVE OTHERS.

5.NOW LOVE AND LIKE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. AGAPE LOVE DEMANDS NOTHING IN RETURN. IT SEEKS THE VERY BEST FOR THE OTHER PERSON. THE VERY BEST IS FOR THEM TO BE IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER THROUGH THE SON.

6.JOHN IN THIS BOOK IS TRYING TO REASSURE THE CHRISTIANS OF THAT DAY OF GOD'S LOVE. THEY WERE FACING HUGE PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE GNOSTICS WHO HAD LEFT THE CHURCH. HE REMINDED THEM AND US OF OUR PRIMARY FUNCTION TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.