



Sunday 17 September

1 John 4:7-12

*Love comes from God (v.7)*

*It should make a difference (v.7-8)*

## Two ways God shows his love to the world

1. God's love is shown in the cross of Jesus

His only Son (v.9)

A hostile world (v.10)

An atoning sacrifice (v.10)

Life through Him (v.9)

2. God's love is seen in how Christians love each other.

Big responsibility (v.11)

Making God's love visible and credible (v.12)

John 13:35 *“By this **all men will know** that you are my disciples, **if you love one another**”.*

1 John 3:16-18 *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. **And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.** If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*

A part to play – you are ‘the church’.

God perfects our love (v.12)

John 17:20, 21 *“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”*

**Conversation starter:**  
What’s your favourite song about love?



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## Growth group questions

You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at:

<http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

*Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.*

1. Do you think society today has a good understanding of love?
2. Read the first part of verse 7. Do you think people who don't know God can be truly loving?
3. Do you think people can be Christians and yet not show love to others? Read verse 8. Why might that sometimes seem the case?
4. Read verse 9. What does it mean for us to live 'through' Jesus? Have you any personal experiences of God enabling you to love someone?
5. Read v.10 and 11. We are told we 'ought' to love one another – Does this mean we have a choice in the matter?
6. Read 1 John 3:16-18. How do you feel you are doing when it comes to loving church family and other Christians?
7. Read verse 12. Do you think if people see how we love one another as Christians, it would make the love of God seem more credible?
8. Do you think it gets easier to love people the more you walk with God?
9. Spend some time thinking and discussing how you as a growth group might try to demonstrate God's love more.

Pray, with thanksgiving, for each other and the work God is doing in your lives and the love He has shown each of us in Jesus.