

Handout December 12, 2025

You Will Know Them
I John 4:7-8

What are you known for? We are all known for something, so I am going to pick on some people first.

1) _____ is LOVE.

I John 4:7-8 'Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. '

Let us love one another. Sounds simple enough, but in practice there are many components. Actively loving a person, people, God, requires a commitment.

Is loving God, *love at first sight*? For many it is. But, I believe the love of life chokes it out, pushes it out. This life of commitment.

2) Love is a _____.

God showed His commitment to us first.

I John 4:9-10 'In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. '

God is perfect and cannot tolerate sin. We are all sinners

Romans 3:23 'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, '

3) We all have _____.

Have you ever hurt someone you loved? Someone you deeply cared about? You know --- a thoughtless word, meaning a word not well thought out? These thoughtless words can hurt. They hurt us. They hurt others. Simple --- thoughtless --- words.

Think of a time... How much did you long for forgiveness? How hard was it for you to forgive?

Perhaps, the solution is a just payment or a similar injury.

Well, that plays out in arguments and long-standing disputes.

Romans 6:23 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

4) The wages of _____ is _____!

Boy --- a just reward. No thanks! Yet God in His mercy...

Romans 5:6-9 *'For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. '*

That's a commitment.

Obviously, this is a salvation message --- that all have sinned and all need a savior. AMEN...

I John 4:11 *'Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.'*

and

I John 3:16 *'By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. '*

We must be willing to die to ourselves and our need for something from others. They don't have it. They really don't. Well maybe, I can pretend to love then.....

5) Loving _____ is loving _____.

I John 4:8 *'He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. '*

You know, I love you. I have a commitment to you, to serve you, to sacrifice for you, to be available, to forgive, to encourage you.

This is a love born of God. You know I love you.

Do others know you love them? Only you can demonstrate that...

I'm very fortunate to now have a wife I love very much and am deeply committed to. What makes that possible from a broken person like myself --- It is my love for God.

The more I love God, the better I love others. It is my commitment to Him that makes it possible for me to commit to you.

I John 1:9 *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. '*

and

I John 4:12-16 *'No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.'*

6) Putting _____ in Jesus is a _____!

I am saying --- I will trust you. I will not fear. I will not look to others for affirmation, for self-esteem, self-worth, value or purpose.

God, tell me who I am:

(Repeat After Me)

- I am loved.
- I am valued.
- I am worthy.
- I am accepted.
- I am capable.
- I can love others.
- I will serve you.

John 13:34-35 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Let us love others as though the living God is loving them through us. ALL People.

Let's ask for forgiveness. Let's recommit or make a new commitment.