

## 1 John 4:7-5:5 To Know him is to Love Him

Love is a word commonly used but not easily defined, understood, or lived out. Seek to come up with a definition of what love is?

1 John is concerned to show us the difference between a fake Christian and a real one. The real Christian has fellowship with the Father & Son (1:3), and as a result certain things show in their life. 3 characteristics have emerged in the letter of 1 John; obedience, love and truth. The genuine Christian has all three! In fact the three are so interconnected that you can't have one without the others.

Background situation:

*Read 1 John 4:1-6*

1. Describe the situation the churches were facing at the time of John's writing?

### God's Love & Ours

*Read 1 John 4:7-12*

2. What is John's starting point for love (4:8)?
3. The mark of a true Christian is to love one another. Why?
4. Define the important elements in God's love for us, verses 9-12?
5. How should God's love demonstrated in Jesus death motivate our behavior?

### Reflect

6. What is easiest for you to love God or love our brothers & sisters in Christ? Why is our love for God connected to our love for others?

## God's Love and Jesus

*Read 1 John 4:13-18*

7. What is it that causes God's Spirit to live in us?
8. How can we have confidence on the day of judgement and not fear?

### Our Love And Obedience.

*1 John 5:1-5*

9. What is our guide for loving God & others v2-3?

Love and obedience are also tightly linked. If you love God you'll obey Him and if you love others you'll treat them the way God commands.

10. What does it mean to overcome the world and who does?

### Reflect:

Write out v1-5 in your own words, trying to link together the ideas of truth, love, & obedience.

### Apply

11. What can you do to keep growing in each area of genuine Christianity: write down some goals for each

Love

Obedience

Holding to the Truth

Give thanks for growth in numbers at ISCF, Pray for the upcoming Parish Toolbox Dinner 15 April