**The Greatest Gift**

“Sharing the gift of love with your spiritual siblings.”

**Text**: **1 John 4:7-12**, “**7**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8**Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9**In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10**In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11**Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12**No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” **English Standard Version**

*Sharing the gift of love with your spiritual siblings requires you to*…

**Point #1**: **Be** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.7-8**

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**Point #2**: **Demonstrate** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.9-10**

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**Point #3**: **Understand** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.11-12**

**Corollary Verses**: John 1:12-13; 1 John 2:9; 1 Peter 1:22; John 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 4:4; Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 5:44-48. Romans 5:5 and 1 John 4:20.

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1. Read **1 Peter 1:22**; **Galatians 6:10**; and **Romans 12:9-10** then answer the following questions. According to Peter how are you and I are called to love one another? What does it look like when you love one another earnestly or intensely? What role does a pure heart play? How does the Galatians passage relate to our passage in **1 John 4:7**? In Romans, Paul encourages us to “out-do one another” in showing honor, not with a competitive spirit, but with sincerity. What does that look like in the church and what steps can you take to implement this in your walk?
2. Read **John 3:16-17**; **Ephesians 2:1-3**; **Romans 5:8**; and **Matthew 5:44-48** then answer the following questions. What kind of people does God show His steadfast loving kindness towards? How are you to respond to those in the body of Christ (your fellow believers) when they hurt, annoy, or simply bother you (*Also see Matt.18:15-20*)? What does it mean when Jesus says, “if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?” Answer from the context. (*Note: verse 48 “perfect” means “complete,” not perfect the way you think of it*).
3. Read **Leviticus 11:44**; **1 Peter 1:15**; **Luke 6:36**; and **1 John 4:11** then answer the following questions. Why does God desire His children to reflect His character and nature? How has God enabled believers to do this? Give some clear examples or share some experiences where you have either loved others as God has loved you, or you have received godly love from others in the body of Christ.
4. Read **John 13:34-35** and **1 John 4:20** then answer the following questions. How does loving others within the body of Christ testify to the authenticity of their faith? How does the lack of love for those in the body provide evidence of unbelief and lack of regeneration (the process of God bringing about new birth)?