



## RHCCC 1-3 John Devotional Series

### 1 John 4:7-21

#### God's Love and Ours

**7** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**13** This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

**19** We love because he first loved us. **20** Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. **21** And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## The Supremacy of Love



### Read

Before you read the passage, consider writing down a few lines about how you would define "love" based on your own life experience and understanding. Imagine verse 4:7 and 4:21 as being the two vertical stands of a pair of bookends while verses 4:1-6 and the following verses 5:1-4 are two supporting legs to each stand. By doing so, you may grasp a better understanding as to why John "digressed" from the theme of how to recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood to "love" and why the message we read today is so important to the overall theme.



### Think

Now imagine verses 7, 11, and 21 as three neighbouring mountains. The two lower ones (v.7 and v.21) stand at either side of the central peak (v.11) which thrusts high into the sky. This picture helps us understand the real focus of this passage: it's not about you, it's about God; it's not about human love, it's about the supremacy of God's love. Read slowly and ponder on each mention of "love". You may see from not only your eyes but also your heart that the great and striking truths were put into simple messages by John: 1, Love is one of the attributes of God (v.8b, v.16b); 2, God defines what is love (v.10); 3, God showed us how His love is given (v.9b). Compare your pre-written definition of love with what God showed us in His love, do you have a different understanding about what love is and why we love?

Think through the text, have you seen the glory of the Trinity that Holy Father, Son and Spirit working together to love us, to show God's love to us and to help us testify God's love for us? (vv.8,10,13) How could this view help you love your brothers and sisters in Christ?

With the light shedding from the central peak, do you see the two lower mountains of "loving one another" differently from a commandment for the Christians to a privilege of the Christians?



### Pray

Praise God that He is love. Give thanks to Jesus Christ for dying for us while we are sinners and showing us what is love. Thank God for His words that reveal His love and His Spirit that helps us to testify His love. Come into the presence of God, leave your previous understanding of love and the barriers to love in front of His feet. Refresh yourself with the power and sweetness of true love -the supremacy love of God. Make the decision again before God that you want to be like Jesus in this world so that God's love could be made complete in you, no room would be left for fear.



### Live

God has disrupted our understanding of love. Love is not about feeling, love is not about favour. Love is about commitment; love is about action. The action that never ceases. Think about how you would be like Jesus in this world. Do you love the brothers and sisters? Or do you even hate someone? Since Jesus died for us, are you willing to take action to live for one another? Fill yourself with the supreme love from God and show it to the world. May the glory go to our Father in Heaven.