

Mar 05, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
We know how much God loves us because He sent His Son to save us

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**  
Dear God, thank You for showing me, in the greatest way possible, that You love me. Help my life to demonstrate my love for You.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*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.*  
(1 John 4:9 NKJV)  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 14, 2017)*

**Series: The Love of God**  
**UNIT: Nature of God's Love**  
  
**NEXT WEEK**  
**God's Overflowing Love**  
(Eph 2:1-10)

## The Source of All Love 1 John 4:7-19

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson examines a picture of the nature of God's unfathomable love and how He is **The Source of All Love**. The study's aim is to recognize that the Triune God is the source of all love. The study's application is establish the habit of thanking God for His great love for us.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

"When you want to know something, go to the source." Have you ever heard someone say that? How about this one: "I got it straight from the horse's mouth"? Another one is "Get to the heart of the matter." All of these expressions point to one common theme. It is this: In order to really know the nature of something, you need to go to where it begins. It does not matter if that something is a river, a rumor, or something else. You will find the truth of it only by tracking it back to its source. People today struggle with what true love looks like. If you leaf through any magazine ad or happen to glance at the television, it is not hard to discern how culture defines love. But is this emotional high that they are promoting really what it is all about? I think not. The reality of love is that it is not merely an emotion. True love is, in fact, so much deeper and greater than that. Real love can be found only in God. I know you have probably heard a thousand times before that God is love. Believers say that constantly. Do we really believe it, though? And do we truly understand what we are saying? If a nonbeliever were to ask you to explain that statement, could you do it? Would you flounder? How do we know that God is the source of love? How do we convey this to a world full of skeptical unbelievers? For starters, God shows His love in His creation. He created and preserves every being who is living and has ever lived (Neh. 9:6). God did not need us. He was already complete. He chose to create us in order to have a relationship with us. That He preserves us each day demonstrates compassion. He also chooses to provide for our needs (Phil. 4:19). God is not sitting indifferently on His throne, watching us struggle through life. He promises provision to His children out of His own wealth. His greatest act of love, however, was when He sent His Son. Try to imagine how God felt. He watched His precious only Son go into a cruel, filthy, sinful world. He had to watch as that Son suffered hatred, ridicule, and scorn. Then God had to bear every parent's worst nightmare—witnessing their child die an agonizing death. Why? He loves us. Despite our sinful nature, our imperfections, and however many times we may disappoint Him, He still loves us. He loves us so much that He purposefully sent His Son to die, knowing it was the only way to draw us eternally to Him (cf. I John 4:9-10). He knew there was no other option. He was willing to give us everything, right down to His beloved Son. That is how we know what true love is. God would not hold anything back from us. We can only know true love when we know God, for He is love (vs. 8). How do you respond to this? If you are a believer, it should bring you joy. We are able to practice love toward those around us because we have a relationship with Christ. Every day He shows us what love is. We can demonstrate it because we have Christ as our example, and His Spirit empowers us. The next time you need to know what love is, do not turn to our culture. Go to the source. He is eagerly waiting to teach you what real love is.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Compassionate Love (1 John 4:7-12)**

*Compassionate because God is love (7-8)*

God is abounding in love (Ps 86:15)

God is the God of love (2 Cor 13:11)

God's Spirit produces love (Gal 5:22)

*Compassionate because of Jesus' love (9-10)*

Jesus loved us so much He laid down His life for us  
(1 John 3:16)

Jesus showed the full extent of His love (John 13:1)

Christians should remain in Jesus' love (John 15:9-10)

Jesus loves the Church (Eph 5:25)

Jesus' love surpasses all knowledge (Eph 3:16-19)

*Compassionate because of God's love being perfected in us (11-12)*

God's love is perfected in us when we obey Him (1 John 2:5-6)

God's love is perfected in us when we are united in Him (Phil 2:1-2)

God's love is perfected because love fulfills the law (Rom 13:10)

God's love is perfected in us through faith (Gal 5:6)

God's love is perfected in us when we are in unity (Col 3:14)

God's love is perfected in us because love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8)

### **Confessing Love (1 John 4:13-15)**

*Confessing love through power of Holy Spirit (13)*

Love through the Holy Spirit because God poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5)

Love through the Holy Spirit because one of the fruit of the Spirit is love (Gal 5:22)

Love through the Holy Spirit through His empowering our inner being (Eph 3:16-17)

Love through the Holy Spirit because He is a Spirit of love (2 Tim 1:7)

*Confessing of God's love by sending His son (14)*

God's love was manifested by giving His Son so that we could have eternal life (John 3:16)

God's love was demonstrated by His allowing His Son to die for us (Rom 5:8)

God's love and kindness was proven through Jesus becoming our Savior (Titus 3:4)

God's love was made known to us by Jesus (John 17:26)

*Confessing Jesus' love as being Son of God (15-16)*

Salvation comes through confession of Jesus being the Son of God (Rom 10:9-10)

Confessing Jesus as the Son of God signifies being born of God (1 John 5:1)

Confessing Jesus as the Son of God can only be revealed from God (Matt 16:15-17)

Loving and obeying Jesus' teaching is a form of confessing Jesus as the Son of God (John 14:23-24)

### **Confident Love (1 John 4:16-19)**

*Confident of God's indwelling love (16)*

God's indwelling love is proven through obedience (1 John 3:23-24)

God's indwelling love comes through faith (Eph 3:17)

God's indwelling love results in eternal life (Jude 1:21)

God's indwelling love brings spiritual life to the human body (Rom 8:11)

God's indwelling love is provided through the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 1:13-14)

*Confident of love because of no fear (17-19)*

No fear because through the Holy Spirit we have been freed from slavery of fear (Rom 8:15)

No fear because God is our helper (Heb 13:6)

No fear because God is our refuge and strength (Ps 46:1-3)

No fear of man because man cannot destroy the soul (Matt 10:28-31)

No fear because our trust is in God (Heb 2:13-16)