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## ***Essential Christianity:*** *The Question of Love*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, November 18, 2018*

I John 4:7-16

### **How I Love Reveals How Much of Me I Have Surrendered to God**

<sup>7</sup> “Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Agape / Sacrificial Love Is Contrary  
to the Human Condition

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” *Philippians 2:3–4, NLT*

Since God is Love:

Only Intimate Fellowship with God  
Will Produce Agape Love

### **How Much Does God Love Me?**

<sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

God Has Already Shown How Much He Loves You

The Nature of Agape Love:  
The Initiative of Love Is All on The Giver

Who Has God Put in Your Life Where It Will

## Cost You to Love That Person?

### How Do I Know This God of Yours Exist If No One Has Ever Seen God?

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. <sup>13</sup> **And God has given us his Spirit as proof** that we live in him and he in us.

God Has Chosen to Live in Me and To Give Me  
His Spirit as Proof of His Love for Me

“In him you ... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” *Ephesians 1:13–14, ESV*

The Evidence of Someone Meddling /  
Interfering in My Life Is A Good Thing

### The Real Question: Will I Put My Trust in God’s Love for Me?

<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> **All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.** <sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

What Does He Mean by Putting My Trust in His Love?

Personal

Relational

God’s Spirit Will Always Seek to Move Me to Where I Can  
Be the Love of God to Someone Else