



**Sermon Discussion Guide**  
1 John: Searching for Certainty  
1 John 4:7-21  
Ronnie Garcia, November 3, 2019

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**Step 1: Reflect on the Text**

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

**Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Apostle John repeats at least three times in this passage that Christians must love one another. What has been your experience in the church? Have been loved in churches? Have you been a person who actively seeks to embody actions of love towards others?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE ORIGIN OF LOVE (vv. 7-8, 20)

1. When John uses the word "love" he is contrasting it against pagan versions of love understood by the Romans and the Greeks. God's love is "gift-love" while pagan love is "need-love." What is the difference between the two? And what is the implication in our relationships when we understand that God's abundant love is deposited in us?

THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE (vv. 9-10, 14, 19)

1. Instead of giving a definition of love, John gives us a picture. Ronnie noted that in Jesus' example we find three things: Love is self-giving; love is not attraction; and love includes meaningful anger. Which of these improved your personal understanding of love?

THE PERFECTION OF LOVE (vv. 12, 17-18)

1. John argues that our experience of God's love comes when we embody actions of love towards our brothers and sisters. And then he concludes that "love casts out fear." What do you think is the relationship between love and bravery?

**Step 3: Final Reflections**

1. Why is love the ordering principle of the Christian life? What does God's preeminent love have to do with our learning to love?

2. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
3. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?