

**WHY LOVE?**  
1 John 4:7-21  
By Raymond White

The Bible, in many places, calls us to love each other. But why? John gives us six reasons to love one another, other than just because God said so.

**[1] BECAUSE LOVE IS WHAT GOD IS**

*1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. :8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

You want to be born of God, to be God's child, to know God? Be what God is: love.

**[2] BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE WAS REVEALED BY CHRIST**

*1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Love is not just what God is, it is what he did. Love should be more than how we feel about others, it should be how we treat others. More than an emotion, love is a behavior.

**[3] BECAUSE LOVE IS OUR TESTIMONY**

*1 John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

People don't see God. So how do they know he even exists? If they see our love, they see God in us. Love originates from God, is manifested in Christ, and is perfected in us.

**[4] BECAUSE LOVE ASSURES US THAT WE ARE IN CHRIST**

*1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

How do you know that you are in God, born of God, a child of God, a saint, a Christian? Because his love is in you. That is your assurance.

**[5] BECAUSE LOVE PROTECTS US AT THE JUDGMENT**

*1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. :18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hat torment, He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

One day we will face God's judgment. But we will be bold at that judgment, confident, because God's love makes us bold. God isn't going to condemn us. We know that, because he loves us. And we know *that* because we love him. Saints who love one another cease to worry about God's judgment.

#### **[6] BECAUSE LOVING EACH OTHER JOINS US TO GOD**

*1 John 4:21* And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

If God is in your brother, then if you hate him, you hate God also. But if you love your brother, then you love God also. It seems that love is the glue that holds heaven together.