

**problem:** Love is not a feeling

1 Cor 13:1-7 love is not a feeling

I may not feel like loving someone but i can still actively love them

conversely if someone is tempted to have an affair they may feel like loving a person but chose not to actively love them.

but what is love objectively if not a feeling

### Main Idea:

Love is a characteristic of God

Love is an act of God

Love is a characteristic of God in us

Love is an act of God through us

**Implication:** 1 Jn 4:20

Anyone who does not love does not know God (4:8)

how do you know, how do you see His love?

**Application:** 1 Jn 4:21

Beloved, if God so loved us we ought to love one another (4:11)

His commandments are not burden some (5:1-3)

because the cross proves how much He loves us

### Text:

**Love is not a feeling**

*1 Cor 13:1-7*

### Love is a characteristic of God

1John 4:7 ¶ Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is from God**, and whoever loves has been born of God (perfect) and knows God.

1John 4:8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. (12-16)

*(8) love is not God (anarthrous no article -describes a quality of His)*

*- the world makes personal feelings God -love is characteristic of God*

*two other relevant characteristics of God in John-*

*- He is also light/holy -1 Jn 1:5-10*

*- He is also spirit - Jn 4:24 - you cannot see His love or His light*

*so He sent His Son to show us Himself Jn 14:6-9*

*- we have seen His glory - Jn 1:14*

*- we have seen His love- Jn 3:16*

### Love is an act of God

1John 4:9 In this the love of God was made **manifest** among us, that God **sent his only Son** into the world, so that we might live through him.

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

1John 4:11 Beloved, **if (1rst class cond. = since) God so loved us, we also ought to love one another**. (17-21)

*(9) manifest -> 1 Jn 1:2 love is an act of God*

*(10) in this is love*

*- not that we loved God - Lev 13:44-46*

*- but that He loved us - Mk 1:40-41*

*(11) ought- not only as our propitiation but as our example - Jn 13:1-5 -> 13:34*

### Love is a characteristic of God in us

1John 4:12 No one has ever seen God; **if we love** one another, **God abides in us** and his love is perfected in us (has been perfected - perf.).

1John 4:13 ¶ **By this we know that we abide in him and he in us**, because he has given us of **his Spirit**.

1John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has **sent his Son** to be the Savior of the world. (all perfects)

1John 4:15 **Whoever confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides** in him, and he in God.

1John 4:16 **So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us(perfect). God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

*(12-13) love is evidence of His spirit - James 4:1-5 (1 Jn 2:15)— love is characteristic of God in us*

*(14-16) to be saved is to believe in this characteristic of God by the Spirit - Rom 5:5-8*

*and to abide in it- Jn 14:23; 15:9-17*

**Love is an act of God through us**

1John 4:17 By this is **love perfected with us**, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because **as he is so also are we in this world.**

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear.** For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been **perfected in love.**

1John 4:19 **We love because he first loved us.**

*perfected = completed - His love completed as we love others - the circle is closed, completed*

*(17) as He is (on earth) so also we are in this world - Matt 6:9-10 - not our love on display but His*

*-> Jn 13:35 - love is an act of God through us*

*(18) fear/law not a motivation but love - ten commandments cannot motivate - 1 Cor 10:23*

*fear is of the flesh - Rom 8:12-15*

**Anyone who does not love does not know God (4:8)**

1John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

*our proof - 1 Jn 3:10, 14, 16-19*

**Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another (4:11)**

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

*His commandments are not burdensome -> 1 Jn 5:1-3 why?*

*because we have Him in us and we know how much He loves others...*

*and we know how much he loves us.*

**articles for further study:**

[http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Attributes/attrib\\_15.htm](http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Attributes/attrib_15.htm)

<http://www.gotquestions.org/God-is-love.html>