

1 John: The Signs of Life

1:1-2:2 Summary (“Fellowship”)

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

2:3-5:12, Exposition (“Know”)

2:3-28, First Panel

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

2:29-4:6, Second Panel

- 2:29-3:10, Righteousness
- 3:11-24, Love
- 4:1-6, Belief

4:7-5:12, Third Panel

- 4:7-18, Love
- 4:19-5:4, Righteousness
- 5:5-12, Belief

5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

The Third Panel of Signs

Things to Look For

- What is the tension between “God is love” and “God is light”?
- How has God solved this tension?
- What three points does John make in 4:9, and again in 4:10?
- Where else does the Bible teach these three points?
- How does Israel’s history illustrate the relation between God’s love for us and our love for him?
- What does “propitiation” mean?
- How does 4:12a challenge the claims of 4:7-10?
- How does the rest of 4:12 answer this challenge?

Sign of Love #3

4:7-18, the Sign of Love

7-10, the Nature of God

- 7a, Summary (vocative): “love one another”
- 7b-8, God’s Nature Defined & Shared
- 9-10, God’s Nature Demonstrated

11-16, our Union with God

- 11, Summary (vocative): “love one another”
- 12-13, Dwelling in God
- 14-16a, God’s Love Demonstrated
- 16b, God’s Love Defined & Shared

17-18, Assurance

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**.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 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.

11 **Beloved**, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another**.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God **dwell**eth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 Hereby know we that we **dwell** in him, and he in us, ~~because~~ that he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God **dwell**eth in him, and he in God. 16a And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.

16b **God is love**;

and he that **dwell**eth in love **dwell**eth in God, and God in him.

How can God be both Love and Light?

Ex 34:6 The LORD,
The LORD God,
merciful and gracious,
longsuffering, and
abundant in goodness
and truth, 7a Keeping
mercy for thousands,

Ex 34:7b forgiving
[bearing] iniquity,
and
transgression,
and sin

Ex 34:7c that will by no
means clear the guilty;
visiting the iniquity of
the fathers upon the
children, and upon the
children's children,
unto the third and to
the fourth generation.

Psa 85:10 Mercy
and truth are met
together;
righteousness
and peace have
kissed each
other.

1Jn 4:8 **God is Love**

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1 Jn 1:5 **God is
Light**, and in him is
no darkness at all

References on 4:8-10

Forgiving Sin = Bearing Sin ...

- Sinner, Lev 5:17; 20:17
- Sacrifice, Lev 16:21-22
- Priest in Sin Offering, Lev 10:17
- God (often)

How does Jehovah Bear Sin?

Isa 53:11 ... by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for **he shall bear their iniquities.**

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered **to bear the sins of many;**

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self **bare our sins** in his own body on the tree, ...

Only begotten = Unique

- Jephthah's daughter (Judg 11:34)
- the son of the widow of Nain (Lk 7:12)
- the daughter of Jairus (Lk 8:42)
- the demon possessed son (Lk 9:38)
- Isaac (Heb 11:17).

4:10 ... not that we loved God ...

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy ~~might~~ wealth.

Deu 7:8 But because **the LORD loved you**, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD **brought you out** with a mighty hand, and **redeemed you** out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Propitiation ἱλασμός *hilasmos* G2434 = appease God's wrath

1John 2:2 And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

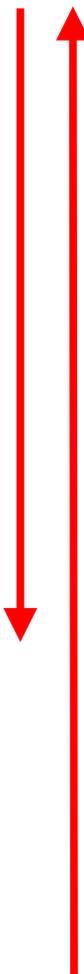
Jhn 3:36 he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the **wrath of God** abideth on him.

Rom 1:18 For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

An Important Pattern in 4:9-10

	God's Love	Gift of his Son	Our Salvation
1 John 4:9	In this was manifested the love of God toward us,	because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world,	that we might live through him.
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.
Rom 5:8-9	8 But God commendeth his love toward us,	in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.	9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
John 3:16	For God so loved the world,	that he gave his only begotten Son,	that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Chiasm across 4:7-16

	7-10		11-16
Heading	7 Beloved , let us love one another :		11 Beloved , if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another .
God's Nature Defined & Shared	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 .		16b God is love ; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
God's Nature Demonstrated	9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us , because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 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.		14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16a And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us .
Credible Witnesses to God's Nature			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. 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because that he hath given us of his Spirit.

Seeing the Invisible God (4:12ff)

12 No man hath seen (θεάομαι *theaomai* G2300) God at any time

Jhn 1:18 No man hath seen (ὄραω *horaō* G3708) God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning,
which we have **heard**,
which we have **seen** with our eyes, *horaō*
which we have **looked upon**,
theaomai
and our hands have **handled**,
of the Word of life;

Jhn 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

If we love one another ...

	1 John 2:5	1 John 4:12-13
Condition	Whoso keepeth his word	If we love one another
Complete love	In him is the love of God perfected	His love is perfected in us
Assurance	Hereby we know that we are in him	13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us,

Love of God: Subjective or Objective?

Subjective: 1 Jn 4:10, he loved us and sent his Son ...

Objective: Jhn 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Love Perfected (completed) ...

Deu 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with **all** thine heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy ~~might~~ wealth.