

First John 4:7-15

First John 4:7 – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

27 [e]	25 [e]	240 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
Agapētoi	agapōmen	allēlous	hoti	hē	agapē	ek	tou	Theou
7 Ἀγαπητοί , ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους , ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ Θεοῦ								
Beloved	we should love	one another	because	-	love	from	-	God
Adj-VMP	V-PSA-1P	RecPro-AMP	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS

1510 [e]	2532 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	25 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1080 [e]	2532 [e]
estin	kai	pas	ho	agapōn	ek	tou	Theou	gegennētai	kai
ἔστιν ; καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν , ἐκ τοῦ Θεοῦ γεγέννηται , καὶ									
is	and	everyone	-	loving	from	-	God	has been born	and
V-PIA-3S	Conj	Adj-NMS	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-RIM/P-3S	Conj

1097 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
ginōskei	ton	Theon
γινώσκει τὸν Θεόν .		
knows	-	God
V-PIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS

1. Third of three times John moves to talk about love. (Also in 2:7-11 and 3:11-18)
2. “Dear friends” – *agapetoi* – indicates John is encouraging, explaining and teaching. John is not reprimanding, rebuking or warning his reader’s behavior.
3. “let us love” or “we should love” – *agapomen* – occurs 3x in 4:7-21.
 - a. 4:7 – *agapomen* – “let us love” is an exhortation
 - b. 4:11 – *agapan* – “let us love” is presented to the readers as their duty.
 - i. “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
 - c. 4:12 – *agapomen* – “let us love” is a hypothesis.
 - i. “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”
4. Since God is love and love flows from God our nature should be one of love if we have been born of God.
 - a. Some would argue that because of common grace (and, the fact that all men are created in God’s image) that all men are capable of manifesting some level of the love of God, our creator.
 - b. If this is true, then this should be more true of the person who is born again.
 - c. John’s focus is on:
 - i. Those who are born (*gegennetai*) of God

1. Present tense of “born” refers to the moment of rebirth and the continuing effect it has on the believer’s life after that moment
- ii. Those who know (*ginoskei*) God
 1. Present tense of “know” is stressing the continued growth in knowledge of God in the believer’s life

First John 4:8 – “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

3588 [e]	3361 [e]	25 [e]	3756 [e]	1097 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	26 [e]
ho	mē	agapōn	ouk	egnō	ton	Theon	hoti	ho	Theos	agapē
8 ὁ	μὴ	ἀγαπῶν ,	οὐκ	ἔγνω	τὸν	Θεόν ,	ὅτι	ὁ	Θεὸς	ἀγάπη
The [one]	not	loving	not	has known	-	God	because	-	God	love
Art-NMS	Adv	V-PPA-NMS	Adv	V-AIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	N-NFS

1510 [e]

estin

ἔστιν .

is

V-PIA-3S

1. John restates is explanation in the negative.
2. Absence of love proves the person does not know God.

First John 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.”

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	5319 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	
En	toutō	ephanerōthē	hē	agapē	tou	Theou	en	hēmin	hoti	ton	
9	Ἐν	τούτῳ	ἐφανερώθη	ἡ	ἀγάπη	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	ἐν	ἡμῖν	, ὅτι	τὸν
In	this	has been revealed	the	love	-	of God	among	us	that	the	
Prep	DPro-DNS	V-AIP-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Prep	PPro-D1P	Conj	Art-AMS	

5207 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	3439 [e]	649 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1519 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]	
Huion	autou	ton	monogenē	apestalken	ho	Theos	eis	ton	kosmon	
Υἱὸν	αὐτοῦ	, τὸν	μονογενῆ	, ἀπέσταλκεν	ὁ	Θεὸς	εἰς	τὸν	κόσμον	,
Son	of Him	the	one and only	has sent	-	God	into	the	world	
N-AMS	PPro-GM3S	Art-AMS	Adj-AMS	V-RIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	

2443 [e]	2198 [e]	1223 [e]	846 [e]
hina	zēsōmen	di'	autou
ἵνα	ζήσωμεν	δι'	αὐτοῦ
so that	we might live	through	Him
Conj	V-ASA-1P	Prep	PPro-GM3S

1. “*monogenes*”
 - a. Translated “one and only”
 - b. 9x in the NT:
 - i. Luke 7:12 – “a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow”
 - ii. Luke 8:42 – “for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.”
 - iii. Luke 9:38 – “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child.”
 - iv. Heb. 11:17 –
 - v. John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18;
 - vi. 1 John 4:9)
2. “the Son of him” – *ton huion autou* – emphasizes the uniqueness of Christ.
3. “has sent” – *apestalken* – from the noun *apostolos* translated “apostle” which identifies one sent on a mission with the purpose of representing someone else.
 - a. “sent” is in the perfect tense which places focus on the permanent result of God’s act of sending his son.
 - b. The verse goes on to tell us the mission was “that we might have life through Him.”
 - c. 6x in 4:9-16 John refers to us having life “through” or “in” the Son.
4. This “life” is only available in and through the Son.
 - a. All men are without this “life” unless they have the son.
 - b. This is not natural life, but spiritual life.
 - c. All men were or are spiritually dead. Only those in the Son have spiritual life.

First John 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.”

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	3756 [e]	3754 [e]	1473 [e]	25 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	235 [e]
en	toutō	estin	hē	agapē	ouch	hoti	hēmeis	ēgarēkamen	ton	Theon	all'
10 ἐν	τούτῳ	ἐστὶν	ἡ	ἀγάπη	, οὐχ	ὅτι	ἡμεῖς	ἠγαπήκαμεν	τὸν	Θεόν	, ἀλλ'
In	this	is	-	love	not	that	we	loved	-	God	but
Prep	DPro-DNS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Adv	Conj	PPro-N1P	V-RIA-1P	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj

3754 [e]	846 [e]	25 [e]	1473 [e]	2532 [e]	649 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	846 [e]	2434 [e]	4012 [e]
hoti	autos	ēgarēsen	hēmas	kai	apesteilen	ton	Huion	autou	hilasmon	peri
ὅτι	αὐτὸς	ἠγάπησεν	ἡμᾶς	καὶ	ἀπέστειλεν	τὸν	Υἱὸν	αὐτοῦ	ἰλασμόν	περὶ
that	He	loved	us	and	sent	the	Son	of Him	[as] a propitiation	for
Conj	PPro-NM3S	V-AIA-3S	PPro-A1P	Conj	V-AIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS	PPro-GM3S	N-AMS	Prep

3588 [e]	266 [e]	1473 [e]
tōn	hamartiōn	hēmōn
τῶν	ἁμαρτιῶν	ἡμῶν
the	sins	of us
Art-GFP	N-GFP	PPro-G1P

1. God's love sent the Son to be propitiation or atonement.
2. The focus is on the death of Christ (propitiation), not the birth of Christ (incarnation).
 - a. No one was saved or given spiritual life because Jesus was born.
 - b. It is only through the death of the Son that atonement can be made for the sin of mankind.
3. Love begins with God. And, because of that love God acted.
 - a. Love for the Father and the Son is not instigated by man.
 - b. Without the manifestation and understanding of God's love man remains incapable of loving the Father or the Son.
 - c. The revelation of God to us and our understanding of God is proportionate to how much we can love God.
 - i. Ignorance of God means love for God is impossible.
 - ii. Greater revelation or Greater insight means we will have a greater love for God

First John 4:11 – “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

27 [e]	1487 [e]	3779 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	25 [e]	1473 [e]	2532 [e]	1473 [e]	3784 [e]
Agapētoi	ei	houtōs	ho	Theos	ēgapēsen	hēmas	kai	hēmeis	opheilomen
11 Ἀγαπητοί , εἰ οὕτως ὁ Θεὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς , καὶ ἡμεῖς ὀφείλομεν									
Beloved	if	so	-	God	loved	us	also	we	ought
Adj-VMP	Conj	Adv	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-AIA-3S	PPro-A1P	Conj	PPro-N1P	V-PIA-1P

240 [e]	25 [e]
allēlous	agaran
ἀλλήλους ἀγαπᾶν .	
one another	to love
RecPro-AMP	V-PNA

1. “Beloved” or “Dear friends – *agapetoi* – is used for the sixth time in this letter.
2. Now, John explains our understanding of God’s love for us will also manifest in love for other believers.
 - a. Understanding God’s nature will result in the manifestation of that nature in us towards others.
3. “ought” – *opheilomen* – inner motivation and a sense of obligation. In fact, it is something we owe.
 - a. Present tense – making this mean a continuing obligation.

First John 4:12 – “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”

2316 [e]	3762 [e]	4455 [e]	2300 [e]	1437 [e]	25 [e]	240 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]
Theon	oudeis	pōpote	tetheatai	ean	agapōmen	allēlous	ho	Theos	en	hēmin
12 Θεὸν οὐδεὶς πώποτε τεθέαται ; ἐὰν ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους , ὁ Θεὸς ἐν ἡμῖν										
God	no one	at any time	has seen	if	we should love	one another	-	God	in	us
N-AMS	Adj-NMS	Adv	V-RIM/P-3S	Conj	V-PSA-1P	RecPro-AMP	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	PPro-D1P

3306 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	26 [e]	846 [e]	5048 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]	1510 [e]
menei	kai	hē	agapē	autou	teteleiōmenē	en	hēmin	estin
μένει καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη αὐτοῦ τετελειωμένη ⇔ «ἐν ἡμῖν» ἐστίν .								
abides	and	the	love	of Him	having been perfected	in	us	is
V-PIA-3S	Conj	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-GM3S	V-RPM/P-NFS	Prep	PPro-D1P	V-PIA-3S

1. This is both:
 - a. An affirmation –
 - b. An order –
2. “has seen” – *tetheatai* –
 - a. is NOT the word used in John 1:18 – *eoraken*, which indicates the fact of having seen.
 - b. *Tetheatai* implies a careful observation and close scrutiny.
 - i. Our English word theater comes from *tetheatai*.
3. “if” – *ean* – is in the third class condition which means maybe so or maybe not. There is a possibility of failure here.

4. “complete” is also “perfected”

First John 4:13 – “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”

1722 [e]	3778 [e]	1097 [e]	3754 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3306 [e]	2532 [e]	846 [e]	1722 [e]	1473 [e]		
en	toutō	ginōskomen	hoti	en	autō	menomen	kai	autos	en	hēmin		
13 ἐν	τούτῳ	γινώσκομεν	ὅτι	ἐν	αὐτῷ	μένομεν	,	καὶ	αὐτὸς	ἐν	ἡμῖν	,
By	this	we know	that	in	Him	we abide		and	He	in	us	
Prep	DPro-DNS	V-PIA-1P	Conj	Prep	PPro-DM3S	V-PIA-1P		Conj	PPro-NM3S	Prep	PPro-D1P	

3754 [e]	1537 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	846 [e]	1325 [e]	1473 [e]
hoti	ek	tu	Pneumatōs	autou	dedōken	hēmin
ὅτι	ἐκ	τοῦ	Πνεύματος	αὐτοῦ	δέδωκεν	ἡμῖν
because	from out	the	Spirit	of Him	He has given	to us
Conj	Prep	Art-GNS	N-GNS	PPro-GM3S	V-RIA-3S	PPro-D1P

First John 4:14 – “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

2532 [e]	1473 [e]	2300 [e]	2532 [e]	3140 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	3962 [e]	649 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]
kai	hēmeis	tetheametha	kai	martyroumen	hoti	ho	Patēr	apestalaken	ton	Huion
14 καὶ	ἡμεῖς	τεθεάμεθα	καὶ	μαρτυροῦμεν	ὅτι	ὁ	Πατὴρ	ἀπέσταλκεν	τὸν	Υἱὸν
And	we	have seen	and	testify	that	the	Father	has sent	the	Son [as]
Conj	PPro-N1P	V-RIM/P-1P	Conj	V-PIA-1P	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-RIA-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS

4990 [e]	3588 [e]	2889 [e]
Sōtēra	tu	kosmou
Σωτῆρα	τοῦ	κόσμου
Savior	of the	world
N-AMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

First John 4:15 – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

	3739 [e]	1437 [e]	3670 [e]		3754 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]		1510 [e]	3588 [e]	5207 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
	Hos	ean	homologēsē	hoti	Iēsous	Christos	estin	ho	Huios	tou	Theou		
15	ὅς	ἐάν	ὁμολογήσῃ	ὅτι	Ἰησοῦς	(Χριστός)	ἐστίν	ὁ	Υἱὸς	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	,	
	Whoever	if	shall confess	that	Jesus	Christ	is	the	Son	-	of God		
	RelPro-NMS	Conj	V-ASA-3S	Conj	N-NMS	N-NMS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS		

	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	1722 [e]	846 [e]	3306 [e]	2532 [e]	846 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
	ho	Theos	en	autō	menei	kai	autos	en	tō	Theō
	ὁ	Θεὸς	ἐν	αὐτῷ	μένει	, καὶ	αὐτὸς	ἐν	τῷ	Θεῷ .
	-	God	in	him	abides	and	he	in	-	God
	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Prep	PPro-DM3S	V-PIA-3S	Conj	PPro-NM3S	Prep	Art-DMS	N-DMS