

## **“The Links of Love”**

### **I John 4:7-21**

**The First Link: God’s Character of Love (vs. 7-8)...** We are called to love because “love is from God” (vs. 7) and because “God is love” (vs. 8). This means that it is God’s very nature to love. He continually gives of Himself to others and seeks their benefit.

**The Second Link: God’s Action of Love (vs. 9-10)...** These verses make clear that God demonstrated His love in the most amazing way – He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ to be a sacrifice for our sins.

**The Third Link: Our Response to God’s Love (vs. 11-16)...** We respond to God’s love by receiving it through faith in Jesus (vs. 16). And as we experience God’s love our reflexive response is to love one another (vs. 11). The more deeply we drink in the love that God has for us in Christ, the more freely we are able to love one another.

**The Fourth Link: Our Confidence through Love (vs. 17-18)...** Finally, as we experience God’s love for us in Christ and as we live changed lives of love, we gain confidence before God (vs. 17) and all fear is removed from us (vs. 18).

#### **\*Questions for Discussion/Reflection:**

- 1. In what way would you describe God’s love as being amazing?**
- 2. What is an example from your own life of God’s love inspiring you to love another?**
- 3. What motivates you more in your Christian life, fear or love? Why?**

**(Reading/Meditation Assignment: I John 5:1-12)**