

The Bible was given so we could learn the **truth** about **God**.

Both Testaments proclaim : *Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts.*

Jesus said : *God is a spirit* (John 4:24).

And John adds : *God is light* (1 Jn 1:5) and *God is love* (1 Jn 4.8, 16).

These are the eternal, immutable attributes of the true God.

The theme of God's love began in chapter 3 (vv 1-2, 16).

In chapter 4 John probes the meaning of **God is love**.

This does not mean '*love is God*'.

It has been accurately said that "love does not define God", but "God defines love".

By his very nature, God's love is *holy, spiritual, and light*.

God's holiness is expressed in *love*.

All that God *does* expresses all that God *is*.

Even God's judgments are measured out in love & compassion (Ps 86:15, Lam 3:22-23).

In this passage (1 John 4:7-21) John gets to the very foundation of Christian love.

He defines God's love toward us in the person and propitiation of His Son Jesus Christ.

Recommended Reference :

The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol 2, Warren Wiersbe, 1989, VICTOR BOOKS.