



B E L O V E D

SUMMARY | Most of us understand that God is love and that because God is love, He loves us. But do we really understand? Because if we truly understood the kind of love that God is and the kind of love He loves us with, wouldn't we live with greater security, confidence, and harmony in our relationship with Him and with others?

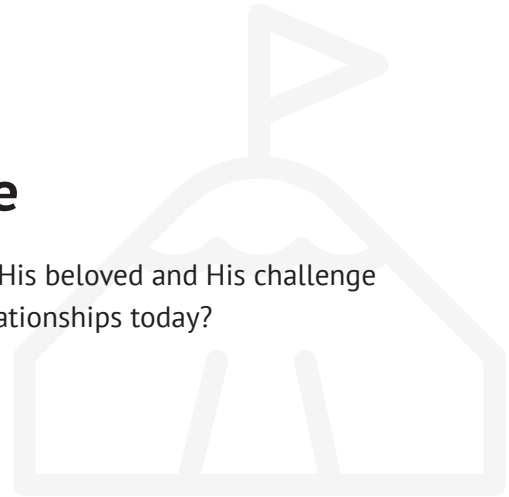
The Bible often uses a term to describe God's love for people—"beloved." In John's first letter to the churches in the Roman province of Asia, the "beloved" disciple unpacks the difference God's love—and our reception of it—can make in our lives and in our world.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 John 4:7–21. What are your first impressions of this section of Scripture? What words are repeated several times?
2. What does it mean when John calls his readers "dear friends" or, in some translations, "beloved"? Who are the "beloved"? Can you include yourself in this term?
3. John challenges his readers, the "beloved," to be love in their world. Read 1 John 4:1–6. Was everyone "easy to love" in that day and circumstance?
4. Focus on 1 John 4:17–18. What does John mean when he writes that "there is no fear in love"? How can we resist fear by being "beloved"?
5. John concludes this section by continuing his challenge to the "beloved" to be love and to be loved. In what way is love a litmus test for our belief?

Challenge

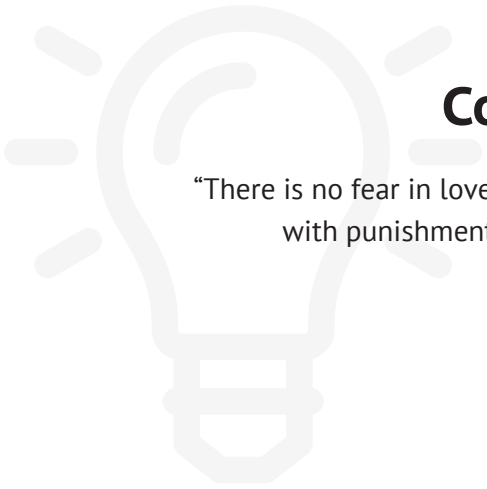
How might understanding God's love for you as His beloved and His challenge to you to act in love affect your relationships today?



Commit To Memory

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

1 John 4:18 NIV



Prayer

Dear God, help me to let You love me as Your “beloved” so that I might be love in Your world. Amen.

