

Reflection Questions: 1 John 4:7-11

For the message, "Let Us Love One Another" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 9, 2025

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 1 John 3:11 & 16, 4:7-11 & 19

3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Let's get started...

- What initially jumps out at you or grabs your attention in this text?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- (1) The central directive in this passage is, "Beloved, let us love one another." Why is love so essential to our identity and calling as followers of Jesus Christ?
- (2) The Apostle John contends the reason we are called to love each other is because of God's prior love for us, and specifically because Jesus laid down his life for us. Can you describe when you first understood and experienced God's love in your life?
- (3) In what ways do you struggle to love others the way God has loved you? What are your biggest obstacles? What's holding you back from going on in?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- (1) Verse 11 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." The Apostle John seems to be teaching that the *fact* of God's love for us places us under an *obligation* to love one another. How are you processing this? Does the "ought-ness" take away from love? What if the "ought" was also our delight?
- (2) What happens when love is lacking in a community of faith? What takes its place? What does that feel like in a church community?
- (3) In our study last Sunday, the Pastor contrasted love with simply being nice. In what ways does simply being nice (which is a good thing!) serve as a counterfeit to genuinely loving others?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- (1) How does experiencing love in our community of faith compel us to engage with those outside the faith in our community?
- (2) What do you think the connection is between loving one another as Christ has loved us and the mission of Jesus in our city?
- (3) What do you believe would change in our city if everyone experienced the love of God in Jesus to the point where we were willing to lay down our lives for one another? Can you even imagine that?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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- _____
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