



## This is Real Love

By Pastor Tracy Headley

**The Apostle John speaks strongly about living godly lives.**

He clearly teaches that our 'knowledge and love of God' will be evident by our *obedience* to His Word and *love* for our brother's sister in Christ.

### 1 John 4:7-11, NLT

7 Dear friends, let us *continue* to love one another, *for* love comes from God. Anyone *who* loves is born of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does *not* love does not know God—*for* God is love.

9 God showed how much *He* loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 **This is real love.** It is not that we loved God, but that *He* loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, *since* God loved us that much, we *surely* ought to love each other.

**We are not to simply talk about love, but to love practically by 'giving to and caring for' those in need.**

Simply put, if we know and love Jesus, then we are to *live* and *love* as He did.

**God loved us so much He *did* something about *our* lost condition.**

He *sent* His Son Jesus to be *a* sacrifice and take away *our* sins.

Jesus loved us so much that He laid down His life on that cross in our place!

**So again, *real* love is *not* that we love Him, but that *He* loves us!**

When we *obey* God's word, *His* love matures in us.

When we *mature* in His love, we *are* secure, comforted, confident, safe, and at rest.

**When we *mature* we cease to live lives shrouded in 'fear/dread', 'rejection/approval-seeking' or 'insecurity/intimidation'- because, His perfect love *casts out* all fear.**

So, it *might* be good to *focus* on His love for us and allow Him to penetrate our hearts at the deepest level.