



## LOVE WINS 1 JOHN 4:16-21

### Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter

Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching

Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.

Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

<sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1John 4:16-21 ESV)

### God's Love Wins Over Our \_\_\_\_\_

"Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the 'Beloved'." ~ Henry Nouwen

### God's Love Wins Over Our \_\_\_\_\_

"Human assurance does not depend on human attainment but on completed divine action and promise." ~ Robert Yarbrough

### God's Love Wins Over our \_\_\_\_\_

### Finding a Lost Love (Revelation 2:1-7)

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven-- for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ~ Jesus (Luke7:47)

### Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 4:16-21. What is one word or phrase that stands out to you?
2. What is the reason for our confidence? Read Mat. 3:17 and 1 John 3:1. How does God see you in this world?
3. How secure are you in the relationship of "beloved" child of God? What affect could knowing that, in Christ, you are God's "beloved" have on your life?
4. What are some reasons you struggle to love yourself or your neighbor?
5. Read Revelation 2:1-7 about the church in Ephesus. What did they do well? What was Jesus' concern? What was Jesus pathway to greater love?
6. Is something restricting the flow of God's love to you and/or through you to your neighbor? What would doing Jesus' teaching in Rev. 2:5 look like in your life?

Spiritual Exercise: Practice gratitude this week. Each morning, begin by giving thanks to God for making you His "beloved" son or daughter through Christ. Throughout your day give thanks to God for all the gifts you can count. When something challenging arises, remind yourself you are God's "beloved" and give thanks to Him.