

March 17, 2020

Knowing Love - Part 2

1 John 4:8, “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

The Greek term for knowing or knowledge is *ignosi*, which means not only knowing a fact, but experiencing and being aware of something. As we think on this, we can see what John was saying in this verse. When you think about the love of God, you can only see it in two ways: you have either experienced it, or you haven't.

If you have not yet experienced His love for you, then you would have a completely different picture of who God is. You would see Him as a God who rules from afar and doesn't really care about individual people. He just does things the way He wants to. As a result, there is no real connection between Him and you. John states that if you do not love, it is because you see God in this manner. He is distant. Perhaps you might even question His existence. I believe every person, no matter what they say, knows that God is real. They may have lied to their own soul long enough to say they don't believe in Him, but deep down in their heart, they know He is real. But here is the fact that that John is testifying to: If you *ignosi* (experience) the love of God, it will change you! You don't just know about God, you know God.

This changes everything in your life! Once you know the God that loves you, you can never be the same again! You will begin to see things from a different perspective. You will start to understand why God has done and continues to do the things He does; because of His great love for you! Thus John says, because you know Him, you will also love because that is Who God is! Once you have experienced His love, you will be compelled to love others like He loves you. Your heart will turn from resentment to grateful. Your mind will transform from selfish to selfless. Your actions will turn from taking to giving. As Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:17, you will be transformed into a new creation because of His love, grace and forgiveness.

Dear Lord, I'm so grateful that I know You. You have made such a change in my life. I know I don't always show it, but You have transformed everything about me. Little by little, I can start to show Your love to everyone. Thank You for Your love! In Jesus Name, Amen