



### **1 John 4:7-8 [NIV]**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Choosing love is always **SIMPLE**  
even if it's not always **EASY**.

### **Matthew 22:35-40 [NIV]**

<sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

What we seek **FIRST** defines us **MOST**.

#### **Matthew 6:33 [NIV]**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Jesus

### **John 15:9-12 [NIV]**

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

## How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

**You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:**

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.*

**If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.**

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### For Further Reflection:

:: Identify/Share something God has been teaching, or reteaching, you through our “All You Need Is Love” journey.

:: How are you now living differently as a result?

:: Pastor Shawn said, “Choosing love is always simple even if it’s not always easy.” What does that mean to you?

:: What are some ways choosing love can be simple? Why?

:: What are some ways choosing love may not be easy? Why?

:: How do John’s words in 1 John help us manage that tension?

:: How does Jesus seek to help us in our pursuit of love?

:: Reread John 15:9-12.

:: What is most meaningful for you in these 4 verses?

:: What are practical ways that we can daily choose to love like Jesus?

:: As we wrap up our journey in 1 John, what is one way Jesus is inviting you to love like Him in the days ahead?

:: Pick 1 thing you can do to love like Jesus, and invite a friend to pray as you do.

*“We cannot pray  
in love and live  
in hate and still  
think we are  
worshipping  
God.”  
– A.W. Tozer*

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – September 5 & 6, 2020

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**FREE  
TO  
LIVE**

We are Free to Live in Jesus! Join us as we celebrate that at our next live outdoor Baptism—6:30pm, Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at our BridgePointe location (1 Montgomery Dr, Moline, IL). No need to register to attend; however, if you’re ready to take your next step in Baptism, text “CONNECT” to 309-250-2007 to find out more.



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