

BELIEF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
LOVE
RIGHTEOUSNESS
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This Is How
We Know

1 JOHN

The Great Dechurching

Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?



Jim Davis and
Michael Graham

with Ryan P. Burge

Foreword by Collin Hansen

- I moved to a new community - 22%

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- Attending was inconvenient – 16%

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- Attending was inconvenient – 16%
- Divorce, remarriage, or another family change – 15%
- Covid-19 got me out of the habit – 15%
- I didn't fit in with the congregation – 14%
- I didn't experience much love from the congregation – 12%

casually dechurched - 75%

casually dechurched -	75%
dechurched casualties -	25%

Belief

Belief

Behavior

Belief

Behavior

Belonging

Belief -

Behavior

Belonging

What does someone believe?

Belief - What does someone believe?

Behavior - What do they do?

Belonging

Belief - What does someone believe?

Behavior - What do they do?

Belonging - Where do they belong?

Three Diagnostic Tools:

Belief

Obedience

Love

Three Diagnostic Tools:

Belief (Belief)

Obedience (Behavior)

Love (Belonging)

Diagnostic Tool #3 - Love

- 1 John 2:7-11

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“Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light ...”
(2:9-10a)

Diagnostic Tool #3 - Love

- 1 John 2:7-11
- 1 John 3:11-24

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- 1 John 2:7-11
- 1 John 3:11-24

“We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers....” (3:14a)

Diagnostic Tool #3 - Love

- 1 John 2:7-11
- 1 John 3:11-24
- 1 John 4:7-21

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- 1 John 2:7-11
- 1 John 3:11-24
- 1 John 4:7-21

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” (4:7)

4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another....”

4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another....”

4:21 “... whoever loves God must also love
his brother”

[4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another....”
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his brother”

We love because of ...

We love because of ...

1. The conception of love (7-8)

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2. The confirmation of love (9-11)

We love because of ...

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3. The connection of love (12-16)

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4. The completion of love (17-18)

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 4. The completion of love (17-18)
- Conclusion (19-21)

1. The conception of love (7-8)

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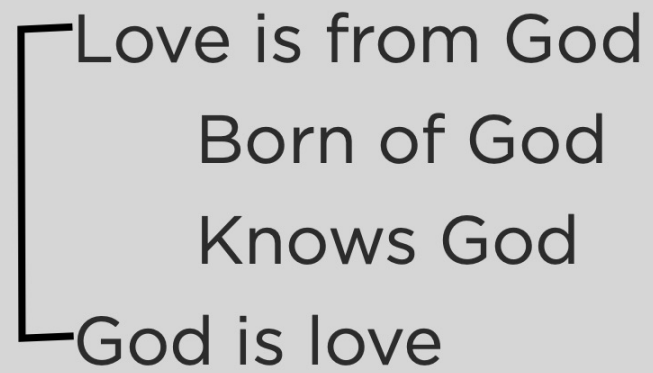
“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8

Love is from God

Love is from God
Born of God

Love is from God
Born of God
Knows God



Love is from God
Born of God
Knows God
God is love

“God’s love is as expansive as God himself.

“For God to cease to love his own, God would need to cease to exist, because God does not simply have love; he is love (1 John 4:16).

“In the death of Christ for us sinners, God intends to put his love for us beyond question.”

Dane Ortlund

1. The conception of love (7-8)
2. The **confirmation** of love (9-11)

“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.

“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.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:9-11

“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

Luke 7:47

1. The conception of love (7-8)
2. The confirmation of love (9-11)
3. The **connection** of love (12-16)

We know we live in God
when we live in love,
for God is love!

“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God **abides** in us and his love is perfected in us.

“By this we know that we **abide** in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God **abides** in him, and he in God. 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.”

1 John 4:12-16

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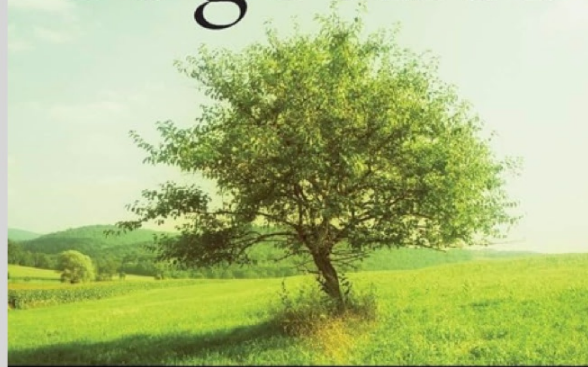
“The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me....”

John 17:22-23

1. The conception of love (7-8)
2. The confirmation of love (9-11)
3. The connection of love (12-16)
4. The **completion** of love (17-18)

"It would be impossible to overrate Dietrich Bonhoeffer's importance as a disciple,
a great Christian, and moral leader."—*The New York Times Book Review*

Life Together



The Classic Exploration of Christian Community

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

“Every human wish dream that is injected into the Christian community is a hindrance to genuine community and must be banished if genuine community is to survive.

“He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“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.

“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.”

1 John 4:17-18

conception



This Is How
We Know

I JOHN

conception

confirmation



This Is How
We Know

I JOHN

conception



confirmation



connection



**This Is How
We Know**
I JOHN

conception



completion



confirmation



connection

**This Is How
We Know**
I JOHN

“We love because he first loved us. 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.

“And this commandment we have from him:
whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

1 John 4:19-21

Our Response

Our Response

- **Open our hearts** - to God

TESTAMENTS
OF
LOVE

A STUDY OF LOVE
IN THE BIBLE



LEON MORRIS

“To come to see that God’s love is a deep, warm love – a love constantly lavished on us quite irrespective of our merits, a love that cost the cross – is to reach a turning point.

“It is impossible to experience this love and remain unchanged. A man may respond to it with all his being, saying, in effect, ‘This is tremendous.

“Deep down this is what I’ve always wanted.”
He will then open his heart to God’s love and
respond with an answering love.

“On the other hand, he may reject this self-sacrificing love, thus joining the succession of those who put Christ on the cross.

“What he cannot do is remain neutral.
Attempting to remain neutral in the face of
such love is itself a rejection, for love like this
cries out to be received.”

Leon Morris

Our Response

- Open our hearts - to God
- **Open our hearts** - to one another

“The most important thing to know about dechurched mainstream evangelicals is that 100% of those in our study are actively willing to return to an evangelical church.”

Jim Davis and Michael Graham