

THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE BELIEVER

THE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE

I. A _____ TO LOVE DEMONSTRATES A _____ FROM THE
GOD OF LOVE- 1 John 4:8

“If conversion to Christianity makes no improvement in a man’s outward actions—if he continues to be just as snobbish or spiteful or envious or ambitious as he was before—then I think we must suspect that his ‘conversion’ was largely imaginary; and after one’s original conversion, every time one thinks he has made an advance, that is the test to apply. Fine feelings, new insights, greater interest in ‘religion’ mean nothing unless they make our actual behaviour better...” —C. S. Lewis *“Mere Christianity”* 207

“The early Christians began where Jesus told them to begin—by loving one another. Harnarck lists ten different areas in which early Christian philanthropy manifested itself: alms in general, support of teachers and officials, support of widows and orphans, support of the sick and infirm, the care of prisoners and convicts in the mines, the care of poor people needing burial, the care of slaves, providing disaster relief, furnishing employment and, finally, extending hospitality.

All of this was, of course, in stark contrast to the pagan practices of the day. Plato suggested that allowing the poor to die shortened their misery. Cicero advised charity only for those who would use it wisely. Roman society cared

nothing for orphans, allowing them to be reared for prostitution. Slaves were regarded as goods and chattels and were bought and sold as such. Christian compassion was not restricted to Christian circles. It was offered indiscriminately to all classes and conditions of men.”—*J. Herbert Kane, A Concise History of the Christian World Mission 25*

II. THE _____ OF GOD’S LOVE PROVIDES THE _____ FOR
_____ TO _____ - 1 John 4:9a

III. THE _____ OF GOD’S LOVE DEMANDS _____ LIVE
THROUGH _____ - 1 John 4:9b

CONCLUSION AND APPLICATIONS