

June 14/15, 2025
"The Love Test"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1John 4:7-19](#) | Know God's Love

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

God loved first. This is the core of biblical teaching. God creates people to love him, but then people rebel. God continues to show love to people, choosing the ancient Hebrews to be his representatives in the world. Then, as John 3:16 says, God's love culminates by sending Jesus to rescue those who believe in him. It's a rescue accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus. John walked and talked with Jesus. He witnesses the love of God in Jesus's interactions with those around him, through the crucifixion and in conversations with the resurrected Jesus. John knows that God loved first. He was confident in God's love, even referring to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved ([John 21:20-24](#)).

Abiding in God's love is foundational to the Christian life. If we get this backward, we'll never feel confident and secure in our faith. Because of God's love, we don't have to fear. We don't have to fear judgment, abandonment or rejection. The cross has reconciled us to God, and we are now part of his family. If we can find a way to anchor our life and identity in God's love (like John did), we can live with incredible confidence and navigate whatever life brings us.

TODAY: Carefully consider where you are experiencing fears, insecurities or anxieties. In your journal or notes app, write two to three of those areas down. Below your list, write this simple prayer, "God, I trust your love and give these concerns to you. Help me to know I'm loved by you and live out of that love."

Day 2 [1John 2:15-17](#) | What We Love

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 1 John 2:15

John uses strong language to warn his readers. He tells them that if they love the world, they don't love God. John doesn't mean that the physical world is bad. He's talking about loving the things that culture says will make someone happy, the things people pursue for satisfaction or meaning outside of God. John tells his readers that those things don't last. Only a life built on love for God stands the test of time.

It's no different for us today. Our desires cannot be truly met through the values of our culture. No relationship, account balance, experience, job title, social media following, health status or academic achievement will ultimately satisfy us. We were created by an infinite God to have desires that only God can meet. When we love the world instead of God, we take something that's meant to be enjoyed and turn it into the most important thing in our lives. Like John says, that means we love something other than God. If we do that, we have to ask ourselves whether we love God or not.

TODAY: Spend time in confession. Identify the thing you are tempted to think will satisfy you. Confess that to God and ask him to turn your heart toward loving him. Use this model prayer as a way to turn to God instead of the world: "I confess that I've been chasing _____ for fulfillment. I know fulfillment is only found in you, God. Help me to grow my love for you. Amen."

Day 3 [1 John 3:16-18](#) | Share God's Love

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

John writes to Christians about how they should love each other in their church community. He goes right to Jesus to define love. Jesus's willingness to die for others is the best example of what it means to love. It's sacrificial love. He also writes about meeting the tangible needs of other believers. Showing love isn't shown only with words. Showing love in actions and in truth is a test of authentic faith, a way to know whether someone truly follows Jesus.

How our church community takes care of each other matters. When we serve each other, it shows God's love to the world. When we give our time to invest in the spiritual growth of the children at Ada Bible, it's showing love. When we warmly welcome people to the weekend service or serve cookies and coffee with a smile, it's showing love. We show love when we use our talents to help a small group member with a home repair, serve as a financial coach or join the worship team. We declare God's love when we give for the first time or give sacrificially on a regular basis so the church can continue to show the love of Jesus to West Michigan. It's putting our love into action in tangible ways.

TODAY: Ask God how you can put your love into action in tangible ways. Perhaps it's volunteering with a ministry. Maybe it's using your skills to serve others. Or maybe God is calling you to greater financial generosity. Whatever God reveals—take action. Find your place to serve [here](#) or give [here](#). For more discussion on assurance of your salvation and showing God's love, listen to the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#).

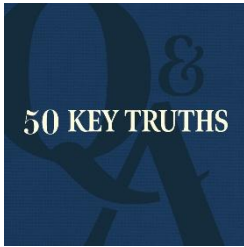
Day 4 [1 John 4:19-21](#) | Show God's Love

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 1 John 4:20

John knows the brokenness of the world results in people treating each other poorly. However, John makes it clear that's not how people should treat one another in the church. He says if someone treats another person poorly inside the church, it makes them a liar when they say they love God. It's another test of faith. John knows this is significant because he heard Jesus say that how believers treat each other will be how unbelievers know whether someone is a follower of Jesus or not ([John 13:34-35](#)). Believers can be confident their faith is real as they start treating others in the church community with love.

It's so easy to be critical and mean. Sometimes, it's like we are looking for reasons to be offended. But that's not the way of Jesus. One of the fruits of the Spirit is forbearance ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)), patiently bearing with those in our church community when we would rather turn against them. When we struggle to love a fellow believer, we must remember what God has done for us, pray for that person's wellbeing, ask God to change our heart and look for opportunities to selflessly serve them. It doesn't mean we don't ever get upset. It means we don't stay angry or bitter. We focus on what we have in common instead of where we may disagree.

TODAY: Focus on someone you have a hard time loving in our church community. Remind yourself of what God did for you and them, pray for them, ask God to change your heart and look for an opportunity to serve them.



Day 5 [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#) | Question 23: Jesus Our Mediator

Question: What does it mean that Jesus is our mediator?

Answer: As our mediator, Jesus represents us before God and restores our relationship with him.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Paul declares the profound truth that Jesus Christ stands as the one and only mediator between God and humanity. Without Christ, people are enemies of God, alienated from him because of their sin ([Colossians 1:21](#)). Humanity needed a mediator to go before them, to make a way to God because they could not do it themselves. Jesus accomplished this by enacting a new covenant in his blood ([Luke 22:20](#)). Through Jesus, internal devotion replaces external religion. God gives people new hearts and new spirits, writing his laws on their hearts and changing them from the inside out ([Ezekiel 36:26-27](#)). God offers to embrace all people in this new covenant through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus continues to be our mediator today. He interceded for us before the Father ([Romans 8:34](#)). His mediation changes everything about how we approach God. We don't come to God as condemned criminals or fearful servants but as reconciled children whose mediator has already made peace. Jesus has torn down the barrier between humanity and God, opening the way for an intimate relationship with our Creator. His ongoing work as our mediator means we can approach God with confidence, knowing our mediator understands both our human struggles and God's holy nature perfectly.

TODAY: Thank Jesus for serving as your mediator, making it possible for you to have a relationship with God. Pray with confidence, knowing that Jesus has secured your access to the Father and intercedes for you. Learn more about Jesus as our mediator in our We Believe document [HERE](#).