The “Love” of First John
1 John 4:7-21

Introduction:
A. Love has different meanings:
   1. English: context determines meaning.
   2. Greek: Word and context determines meaning: Agape, Philos, Eris.
B. Love (agape) is a deep sense of loyalty.
   1. Love of the mind, make up mind to love.
   2. Love that seeks welfare and interests of object above self.
C. Four aspects of this love in 1st John.

Discussion:
I. The Author of Our Love - God (4:7)
   A. “God is love” – part of his very nature (4:8, 16).
      1. Does not cancel his judgment (4:17; cf. 2 Pet. 3:9-12).
      2. Love is one of many attributes (1:5; cf. Heb. 12:29)
   B. God shows love (3:1; 16; 4:9-10, 19).
   C. God commands love (3:11, 22-24).
II. The Objects of Our Love.
   A. God above all others (4:19; cf. Mt. 22:36-40).
   B. Our brethren (2:10; 3:10, 14).
      1. Do we gossip about those we really love?
      2. Do we wilfully hurt those we really love?
      3. Do we easily give up on those we love?
   C. All men (1 Thess. 3:12)
   D. Not the world (2:15; James 4:4)
III. The Evidence of Our Love.
   A. For God.
      1. Obedience (2:5; 5:3)
      2. Love brethren (3:16-18; 4:20,21)
   B. For brethren.
      1. Obeying God (5:1,2)
      2. Correction when needed (Jas. 5:19-20).
   C. For all men (Mark 16:15-16).
IV. The Fruit of Our Love.
   A. Less fear (1 John 4:17-18).
   B. Confidence in day of Judgment.

Conclusion:
A. Would you like to know that you love God and his children?
B. Would you like to arise above fear of being lost?
C. Would you not obey him today?