

## I. The Command

- Biblical love is a self-sacrificing, caring commitment that shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved.
- A child of God carries His Father's nature.

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- Love does not define God, God defines love.
- Valid test to examine if you are in the faith: "Do I love God's people?"

## I. The Command

- Vs. 8 is a warning – If you don't have love, then you don't have God.

## II. The Example

- If you struggle to have love, don't lose hope. God has provided THE example.

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- God put on display His love through the gift of His Son. He is saying through the Christmas season, “Here is my Son, here is how much I love you.”

## The Example

- “Only begotten” – means unique, only one of its kind.
- John rightly observes that God did not send love because we loved Him first.

## II. The Example

- “be the propitiation for our sins” means that the Cross of Jesus Christ has indeed satisfied God’s righteous demands so thoroughly that His grace and mercy are abundantly available to all who come to Him.

## II. The Example

- The birth of Christ is a great event to celebrate. There is so much joy surrounding it, but we must always remember that Jesus was born so He could die.

### III. The Challenge

- We have no excuse to not love one another.
- We owe it to God to love His children.
- To love out of duty is one thing, but to love out of appreciation is entirely another.

What was the best gift that you have ever received.