




1  **CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY CHURCHES:**


2  **"LOVING RELATIONSHIPS"**


3  **1 John 4 : 7-21**

7 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not love God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

4  10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

5  13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.


6  Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement, because in this world we are like him. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

7  19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says "I love God", yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For any one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."

8  **1 John 4:7-21.**

9  **COMMENTS ON LOVE WE NEED TO TAKE ON BOARD FROM THIS TEXT:**

1. Love is sourced in who God is. v.7
2. God's demonstration of love involved sacrificial behavior. v. 9
3. Such love as God has shown, demands that love from those who follow him. v. 10 & 11

10  4. Loving one another is the evidence of "God with us". v. 12

5. Love brings its own rewards. v. 13-18

6. Whoever loves God must also love a brother/sister. V. 19 -21

(How great is the love the Father has lavished on us 1 John 3:1)

11  **WHAT IS LOVE ???**

"A warm fuzzy feeling"

"If you love me, you'll give me what I want".

"Sex"

"How others help me feel self fulfilled"

"To love means giving away my personhood"

12 

LOVE IS A KIND OF DOING WHICH EXPRESSES GOD'S  
PRESENCE IN A RELATIONSHIP

11 

The presence of Love is evidenced by our behavior in our relationships.

e.g.

1. Galatians 5 : 6,16a, 22,3.

6b "The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself in love..... 16 So I say, live by the Spirit....."

12 

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is...

LOVE,

( joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.)

How can this happen ????

13 

A. The power to love is the expression of the Spirit of God in our lives.

●

B. The presence of love, helps determine the choices we make in our behaviour.

14 

1. By the absence of behavior that damages.

2. By the presence of upbuilding Christ like behavior.

[ See the handout "11 RULES FOR RESPECT" ]

Some more Biblical examples.....:

15 

2. Choices about Church life style we hold each other to.  
Phil 4: 2 – 9.

3. A tongue that has been tamed.

James 3.

'Healthy Church "research suggests that:

"In a church where love is generously present laughter flows freely"

16 

LOVE COMPELS CHRIST – LIKE BEHAVIOUR

B Towards other people:

2 Cor 5:14-20

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all....."

17 

To love, is a behavior choice that breeds a church culture.

18 