

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 24, 2025

What's Love Got To Do With It?

"I love you" can become so easy to say but so hard to maintain. Two people dating might say "I love you" a hundred times before marriage—yet say "I hate you" a thousand times after. Maybe that's why a popular song once asked, "What's Love Got to Do with It?" Hollywood often plays on this theme in sitcoms and reality shows like The Bachelor or The Bachelorette. When couples from these shows are later interviewed, most of their relationships have ended. But the truth is: love has everything to do with it—especially because God is love (1 John 4:8). As the world moves further away from God, we see the results: more wars, higher divorce rates, rising domestic violence, crime, and hate—even in a nation filled with churches (1 John 2:9–10; 1 Peter 2:9–10).



The problem is that people often try to base love on how they feel about someone. But if love begins with emotion, it easily shifts depending on whether or not we like the person. The Bible never tells us to like everyone—it commands us to love. In fact, it tells us to love even our enemies (Romans 12:9–20). That kind of love isn't natural—it's a faith walk, and one the Lord promises to reward (Matthew 5:43–48).

So, how do we truly love? It starts by accepting Christ (1 John 4:7)—by confessing our sins (Romans 10:9), and believing in Him. As we grow in our commitment to obey Christ (Matthew 22:36–40), the Holy Spirit begins to renew our minds and shape our hearts. That transformation strengthens our conviction and helps us stay committed—even in the face of rejection, conflict, or hate (1 John 2:3–6; John 13:34–35).

This love empowers us to respond not based on how we feel but based on who we are in Christ. If we find ourselves unable to love because of how someone has treated us, that often reveals the true depth of our relationship with God.

Love that is shaped by the Spirit of God lasts. The Holy Spirit doesn't get tired. He isn't swayed by hate. He never turns away from God's Word. His nature is love—and it cannot be corrupted (Galatians 5:22–23). So yes, love does have everything to do with it, it depends on who we love first.

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world."  
—1 John 4:15–17 (NASB)

UPCOMING Events



**YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MONTH — AUGUST 2025**  
August is Youth Month. Encourage your youth to get involved in the Youth Praise Team, Urban Missions Team, Puppet Ministry, Drill Team and other Youth Ministries. Contact Brandon Crenshaw or Ms. Sylvia Edwards for details on Children's & Youth Month.



**YOUTH CHOIR—**  
Youth, do you have a passion for singing and music? Rehearsals are every Thursday at 6PM. Sign up online or contact Chris Kinsey or Melita Washington at [melita.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:melita.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org).



**SHORT FILM BY NEHEMIAH JOHNSON— SAT. AUGUST 30TH**  
Join us at 1:00 PM on Saturday August 30th for the premiere of Nehemiah Johnson's Short Film, Dreams of Nothing. A gripping film about a young ladies chase to find her purpose while staying true to her faith. We hope to see you there!



**Deacon Family Fellowship & Ministry Fair —**  
Lets end Youth Month 2025 with a bang on Sunday, August 31st. We'll have our next Deacon Family Fellowship and Ministry Fair! Join us for one service at 9:30AM and then fellowship, eat, and learn about a new ministry at Living Word. Contact your Deacon family for information on how to serve and .



**VOLUNTEER YOUTH FOR 5TH SUNDAY AUG. 31, 2025—ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.**  
Youth , we need you to volunteer to help with 5th Sunday. Please register at <https://bit.ly/4mwCLvG>  
For more information, contact Natividad Smith at [NDS\\_SMITH@YAHOO.COM](mailto:NDS_SMITH@YAHOO.COM)



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Song
- Communion
- Praise & Worship
- Visitor's Welcome
- Worship In Giving  
*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*
- Special Music
- The Word of God  
**"Know Love"**  
1 John 4:7-8  
*Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor*

Sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)  
Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

- Call to Discipleship  
*Please remain seated at this time*
- Benediction & Closing Song

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.  
**Infants—6th grade**

**LEGACY**  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2 3 4 &**  
SUNDAY  
**TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
7:30 PM



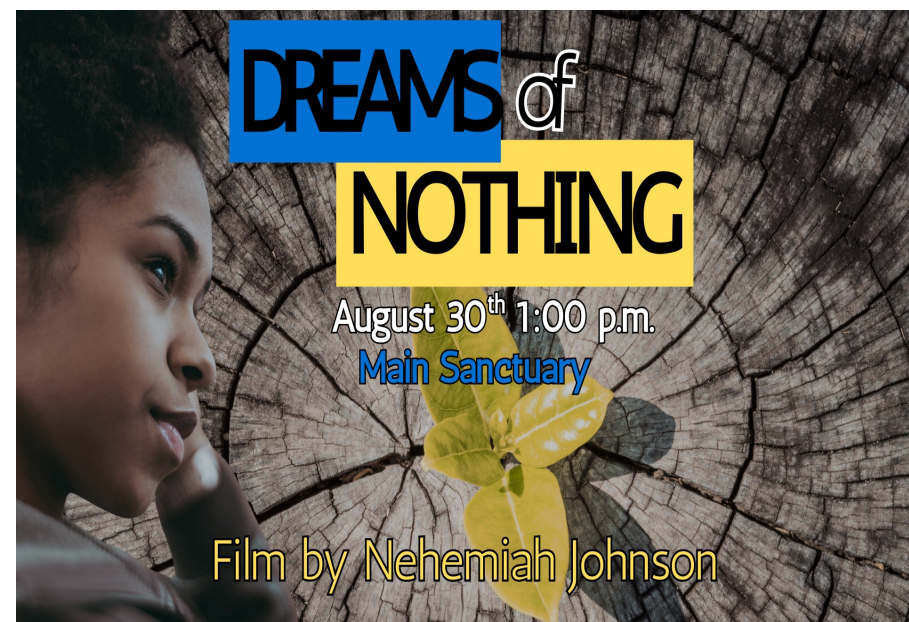
## Know Love 1 John 4:7-8

### A. The Source (v. 7):

1. Let us love – Loving one another is a command that requires commitment and sacrifice.
2. Let us love – To love is a continuous expectation that is empowered by the Holy Spirit (John 13:34-35).
3. Love – Love is a deliberate act of obedience to God as we relate to others.
4. Is – Love originates from God; its' a continuous supply as a result it does not fail (1 Corinthians 13:8).
5. Everyone who loves - A person who makes it their focus to love must live under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
6. Is born – The person who loves consistently demonstrates that they truly have the divine nature of God.
7. Knows – A person who continuously loves no matter the circumstances demonstrates that they truly know God.
8. Knows – Knowing God is to experience daily insight into how to obey God's Word as it relates to others (1 John 1:5-7).

### B. Choose Love (v. 8):

1. The one who does not love – To decide not to love is to not experience strength or wisdom to love others.
2. Does not know – This person walks based on their own understanding or experiences (1 John 2:9-10).
3. God – God by His very nature is love, like water is wet.
4. Is – Since God is love and love originates from God, He is its source and strength (Galatians 5:22).
5. Is – God defines and directs how love is applied.
6. Love – Believers submission to God's rule in their lives directs their relationships (Matthew 22:36-40).
7. Love – Believers are only rewarded for a God directed love (Matthew 5:43-48).
8. Love – Love from God is to be in love with God.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, the family of Beverly Shaw, and Natividad Smith & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia Edwards.

# KNOW LOVE

## 1 John 4:7-8