

## How does verse 16, relate to the overall theme of 1 JN 4.13 – 16?

"So we know and believe the love God has for us" serves as a culmination of the ideas presented in verses 13-16, reinforcing the overall theme of God's love and our relationship with Him. Let's examine how this phrase relates to the broader context:



## Developing INSIGHTS

**we know and believe the love God has for us**

### Connection to Divine Indwelling

The passage begins by emphasizing the mutual indwelling between believers and God

This concept is introduced in verse 13, which states that we know we abide in God and He in us because He has given us His Spirit. This indwelling is further elaborated in the subsequent verses.

### Testimony of God's Love

**Verses 14 and 15 provide evidence for God's love:**

1. The apostles' testimony that the Father sent the Son as the Savior of the world
2. The confession that Jesus is the Son of God, which results in God abiding in the believer and the believer in God

### Culmination in Verse 16

The phrase "So we know and believe the love God has for us" in verse 16 serves as a conclusion drawn from the preceding statements

**It indicates that:**

1. Knowledge of God's love: Based on the indwelling of the Spirit and the testimony about Jesus, believers can confidently know God's love.
2. Belief in God's love: This knowledge leads to a deep-seated belief or trust in God's love.



### God's Nature and Our Response

The verse continues by stating, "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him"

**This further emphasizes:**

1. God's essential nature: Love is not just an attribute of God but His very essence.
2. Reciprocal relationship: Those who live in love demonstrate their abiding in God, and God abides in them.

**In conclusion**, the phrase "So we know and believe the love God has for us" encapsulates the theme of divine love and mutual indwelling presented in 1 John 4:13-16. It serves as a bridge between the evidence of God's love (sending His Son, giving His Spirit) and the practical outworking of that love in the lives of believers.



**13** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. **15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16** So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.