

Why We Love...

1 John 4:13-21

1 John 4:13-21 (NASB)

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 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. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

John has been building a case for love

**As a church-planter and Apostle, John had his hands full
—John addresses these issue in this letter.**

Jesus was concerned about "false followers" throughout His ministry.

Jesus eliminated the option of being a ½-committed disciple

- Eliminated the superficial options.

Jesus is adamant about TRULY following Him because SALVATION depends on it.

And so JOHN is adamant about these things as well.

Last week's passage plainly states 2 REASONS for a Christian's love:

Jesus said:

John 13:35 (NASB)

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- Love is **HARD EVIDENCE TO THE WORLD** that God exists and that God changes lives!

*****This week's passage: Explains the VALUE of Love for the believer*****

We love because:

Love is HARD EVIDENCE TO THE CHRISTIAN that He/She is a truly saved!

- Love is a testimony to the world, and love is a testimony to each & every Christian!

1 John 4:13-17a (NASB)

13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 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. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment

v13—We KNOW we abide in Him because we have been given His Spirit.

v14-15—We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

HOW do you know you've been given the Holy Spirit??

- Your full belief and acceptance of the Gospel that confirms the Spirit is in you!
- You can't know this without the Spirit in you, right?

1 Corinthians 1:18-21 (NASB)

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who [m]are perishing, but to us who [n]are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.”

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

I believe what can only be believed if it is revealed by God.

Verse 16—“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.”

****The Holy Spirit has enabled me to see this.**

And so verse 16—“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.”

1 John 4:13-16 (NASB)

13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 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.

v16 “God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

You’re going to know you abide in God and God abides in you, IF YOU ABIDE IN LOVE.

1. you love God
2. you love Jesus
3. you love others as Jesus loved

- **The Holy Spirit allows us to believe the right things about God**
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT allows us to live rightly, so that WE LOVE God and other people**

This is how you can know for sure that you’re saved.

So, we love because:

1. God is love
2. God is obvious when we love like God.
3. Love is our testimony—EVIDENCE of the reality of God.
4. Love is an assurance of our salvation.

5...We love because Love is our CONFIDENCE before God in judgment

1 John 4:17a (NASB)

By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment

Our confidence in the day of judgment comes from a PERFECTED LOVE in our life!

1 John 2:28 (NASB)

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

We have CONFIDENCE in the day of judgment! BOLDNESS!!

1 John 3:21-22

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

ICh3—you enter into God's presence with boldness and confidence & ask what you will and receive it!!

Ch4— we may have confidence in the day of judgment—you can look ahead to judgment without fear!

We get to live life FREE FROM FEAR!

How is this possible?

1 John 4:17

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.

Could Jesus could face judgment of God with **confidence? boldness? fearlessness?**

- Because love is absolutely perfected in Him
- Obedience is absolutely perfected in Him
- Righteousness is absolutely perfected in Him.

1 John 3:2 (NASB)

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him [...]

And so, we can live this life with that absolute confidence.

1 John 4:18 (NASB)

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear [e]involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

If we love like this, there is no fear.

- perfect love
- mature love
- this is a whole love

We don't fear judgment. We don't fear the return of Christ, we long for it.

—“Come Lord Jesus, come quickly.”

There is no fear because we experience God's love and that love becomes our confidence.

So perfect love casts out fear

- it dispels fear
- it dismisses fear because fear involves punishment.

Where this love is shed abroad in your heart, there is no fear.

God gives His children to live in confidence.

And how do we KNOW this? HIS perfect love.

****ADAM & EVE'S SIN & HIDING & GOD'S PURSUIT**

1 John 4:19-21

We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

We love because He first loved us.

This love is intended by God to be a TESTIMONY of God as God's people love as God loves.

- Anyone who hates a Christian is doing the devil's work...
- Jesus says the world will hate us, but we are to love one another.

A true follower of Jesus has this love for his brother.

- This love is GIVEN to us by God for one another!

"This commandment we have from Him,"

- This isn't some strong personal preference
- This isn't simply John's best suggestion...

This is a command from God, whom you claim to follow.

If you love God you should also love your brother.

This love is not an emotion

Perfect love is the mark of the true believer.

This perfect love is a free gift from God!