

"The Love that Sent Jesus into the World"

(1 John 4:7-21)

12-21-2025

Introduction: (v.7-10)

*** A realization of God's love for us (as demonstrated by the Father's Gift of His Son) will result in major attitude changes in our lives!**

When we realize the Father's Love, it will produce …

I. A LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER *(v.7; 11-12; v.20-21)*

(God's love for us changes our attitude toward OTHERS)

When we realize the Father's Love, it will produce …

II. A CONFIDENCE THAT HE DWELLS IN US *(v.13-16)*

(God's love in us changes our attitude toward SALVATION)

When we realize the Father's Love, it will produce …

III. A REMOVAL OF THE FEAR OF JUDGMENT *(v.17-18)*

(God's love for us changes our attitude toward DEATH)

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IV. A LOVE FOR GOD *(v.19)*

(God's love toward us changes our attitude toward GOD)



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Introduction: v. 8 - 11

“God is love” – v.8

John revealed in his gospel that “God is spirit” (Jn. 4:24).

Earlier in this epistle he revealed that “God is light” (Jn. 1:5).

Now He describes the essence and character of God as being “love.” God not merely loves; He is love itself; just as He is spirit and light, He is love. The source of all love is God.

ILLUS: Song “The Love of God”

“Nothing binds me to my Lord like a strong belief in His changeless love” (C.H. Spurgeon)

v. 9

“. . .Manifested the love of God” - Love is visual – Love can be seen by what it does; God’s love did something that the world could see (I Jn. 4:14): He gave us His Son (Jn. 3:16).

There is no such thing as invisible love; the fruit of love will always be a tangible deed of kindness and concern.

“toward us” – God’s Love is personal

“Sent His only begotten Son” - Love is sacrificial – God’s love sacrificed that which was dearest to Him: the life of His unique Son.

“that we might live” – God’s Love is beneficial - God’s sacrifice was beneficial; we are the beneficiaries.

Christ came to die, that we might live.

v. 10

“Not that we loved God” - God’s love was unconditional – He didn’t love those who loved Him; rather, He loved those who were at enmity with Him (Rom. 8:7), enemies of Him (Rom. 5:10), while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8).

“propitiation for our sins” – God’s Love is sufficient - Christ is God’s satisfaction for our sins; His death satisfied the just demands of a holy God.

I Jn. 2:2 - And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Is. 53:11 - He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

v. 11

"if God…we ought also" – God's Love is <u>motivational</u>

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I. A <u>LOVE</u> FOR <u>ONE ANOTHER</u> *(v.7; 11-12; v.20-21)*

(God's love for us changes our attitude toward <u>OTHERS</u>)

v.7

The greatest demonstration of our sonship is our love for each other.

v. 11

"If God <u>so</u> loved us" - If God <u>in this way</u> loved us; if it is true that God loved us as vv. 9-10 say, we should love others in like manner.

Love is a moral "ought." It is a family obligation; It is expected; Our love for each other is proof positive of our realization of God's love for us.

v. 12

"No man hath seen God" - No mortal has seen God the Father in all of His unveiled blazing glory.

In Jesus, the disciples saw the veiled glory of God (Jesus is the express image of His person; but no one living in flesh could see God in all of His splendid brilliance, and live.)

However, when people see you love others, they see God through you; they see Him loving others through your earthly vessel.

Your love demonstrates to those who witness your life that God "dwelleth" in you.

"His love is perfected in us" - Two possible ideas:

1. His love toward us
2. Our love toward Him

If verse 18 is brought into consideration, we can conclude that the reference is to God's love toward us. When we fully or completely realize God's love for us, we then will have the capacity to love others in the same way.

v. 20
You can't love God without also loving His children.

If you love Him, you will also love those who belong to Him (because He loves those who belong to Him).

You can't fully love me and yet hate my kids.

If you can't love people who you can see, how can you love God who you cannot see?

If you can't love on the lower (visible) level, ho can you love on the higher (invisible) level?

v. 21
The greatest commandments are to love God completely and to love your neighbor as yourself (Mt. 22:35-40 - 35 Then one of them, *which was* a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying,
36 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law?
37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
38 This is the first and great commandment.
39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The reality of God's love for me is, my inspiration (incentive, motivation) to love others the same way.

He loved me unconditionally; I must love others the same way.

(I may not "like" others, but if they have a need or make a request of me, I must be there to meet it.)

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

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II. A CONFIDENCE THAT HE DWELLS IN US *(v.13-16)*

(God's love in us changes our attitude toward SALVATION)

v. 13

"Hereby know we" - we can be assured of God's indwelling presence in our lives, by means of the changes in our lives the Holy Spirit brings.

"He hath given us of His Spirit" - The Spirit of God produces in us the love of God for others, and He brings such love out of our lives into the lives of others. Love is a "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22).

v. 14

Although (as John stated in v. 12) no man has seen God (the Father), John here repeated the truth which he started this epistle with (I Jn. 1:2): that he saw (with his own eyes) the Son of God.

v. 15

"Confess" - not a mere acknowledgement of a fact, but a personal testimony of heart conviction.

"Jesus is the Son of God" - An emphasis of Jesus' divinity (Jesus is God because He is the only begotten Son of God).

Note the order of events: When you have. . .

1. Personal faith in God's Son (v. 15) . . .

2 God comes to dwell in you (v. 13a)

3. God dwells in you by His Spirit (v. 13b)

4. And His Spirit produces the fruit of love in and through your life (v. 12)

v. 16

Since God is the source of love, those who have God will have love.

"Known and believed" - Not just known. It is not enough to know about God's love for you; you must believe that He loves you.

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III. A REMOVAL OF THE FEAR OF JUDGMENT *(v.17-18)*

(God's love for us changes our attitude toward DEATH)

V. 17

"Herein is our love made perfect" - Our love for others is completed when we really come to grips with God's love for us (v. 16).

"As he is, so are we in this world" - Since God loves others, so we will love others as long as we are in this world.

Such demonstration of love pouring out of our lives bolsters our confidence that we are truly children of God; therefore, when we face the Judgment we will receive rewards for our love shown; we will not be condemned because we show up at the Judgment lacking (missing) the Lord and His love in our lives.

"Our boldness in that day is grounded in [our] present likeness (resemblance) to Christ" (Hiebert, p. 216).

v. 18

"The fear in view here clearly springs from a consciousness that punishment is deserved" (Hiebert, p. 218).

> But praise God, our punishment has been paid by the love of God (which is the motive for His grace and mercy Eph. 2:4-5 - ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

"Fear hath torment" - fear involves punishment. When we know God's love for us, we will feel secure in our salvation and will not fear the future judgment.

Hell is not our lot, because God's love which sent His Son to die in our place is the reality which we put our trust in.

Those who are fully aware of God's love for them (as evidenced by Calvary) need not fear Judgment.

Those who fear God's wrath have not come to fully trust God's love.

Many are spiritually insecure Christians due to the fact that they have been tempted to doubt God's love for others.

ILLUS: When a child trusts his parent to protect him, he can sleep without fear, knowing that his dad or mom loves him and therefore will keep him safe from harm.

Where there is faith there is no fear (faith is the opposite of fear, and faith drives all fear away).

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IV. A LOVE FOR GOD *(v.19)*

(God's love toward us changes our attitude toward GOD)

v. 19
My love for God is the result of my realization of His love for me.

The more aware you are of His love for you, the more you will love Him in return.