



1 John 4:7 – 21, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. <sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

*This is a closely interwoven passage...best when read in its entirety!*

**Several teachings from this passage:**

### **I. TEACHING ON LOVE**

➤ **Love has its origin in God (v. 7)**

God is love. To be like God and be what we were meant to be, we must also love.

➤ **Love has a double relationship to God.**

It is only by knowing God that we learn to love, and it is only by loving that we learn to know God (v. 7 – 8).

**Love comes from God, and love leads to God.**

➤ **It is by love that God is known (v. 12)**

We cannot see God because God is spirit; what we can see is His effect. We can't see wind or electricity...but we can see its effect. The effect of God is love. God is known by the effect He has on the individual.

➤ **God's love is demonstrated in Jesus Christ (v. 9)**

**When we look at Jesus, we see two (2) things about the love of God.**

1. It is a love which holds nothing back (God loved men and women, boys and girls so much that He sacrificed His most Beloved possession.
2. It is a totally undeserved love. How in the world could God love such poor and disobedient creatures as we are?

➤ **Human love is a response to divine love (v. 19)**

*We love because God loved us. It is the sight of His love which awakens in us the desire to love Him back...as He first loved us...and also to love our neighbors as He loves them.*

➤ **When love comes, fear goes (verses 17-18)**

**Fear is the characteristic emotion of someone who expects to be punished.**

*God's true nature is not to punish...but to forgive...and love. That is why He still bids the lost to come. Punishment comes only when there is rejection of God's love...Mercy is always waiting...but Mercy and Grace never forces the human to love. Rebellion has always been what separates man from God.*

**Once we know God's true nature and accept it as fact (He loved us so much that He gave of His own flesh and blood), fear is swallowed up in love.**

**The fear that remains is the fear of causing Him grief in His love for us.**

➤ **Love of God and love of other people are indissolubly connected (vs. 7, 11, 20)**

*The energy of love discharges itself along lines which form a triangle...whose points are God, self, and neighbor.*

**The only way to prove that we love God is to love the men and women whom God loves.**

**It is our destiny to reproduce the life of God in humanity.**

**What wonderful things does this passage say about Jesus Christ?**

**1. It Tells Us That Jesus Is the Bringer of Life.**

*God sent him that through him we might have life (v. 9)*

*There is a world of difference between existence and life. We all have existence, but we do not all have life.*

**Living with Christ turns mere existence into fullness of life.**

**2. It Tells Us That Jesus Is the Restorer of the Lost Relationship with God.**

*God sent him to be the atoning sacrifice for sin (v. 10).*

*Jesus bridged the awful gulf between God and us.*

**3. It Tells Us That Jesus Is the Savior of the World (v. 14)**

*People need to be saved from themselves; they need to be saved from the habits which have become their chains; they need to be saved from their temptations; they need to be saved from their fears and anxieties. In every case, Jesus offers salvation; He enables us to face the present and to meet eternity.*

**4. It Tells Us That Jesus Is the Son of God (v. 12)**

*He and He alone can show us what God is like; He alone can bring God's grace, love, forgiveness and strength.*

*Jesus is the one that introduced mankind to the Spirit of God....*

*It is the Spirit which sets us free...It is the Spirit which convicts and convinces us to do what is right...and to stay away from evil.*

*It is the Spirit...in whom Jesus introduced us, that makes us dare to address God as Father (Romans 8:15-16).*

**The Simple Fact—Christianity Is Based on:**

**Faith and Actions in Response to Our Love for the Truth**

**1 John 5:1-2, “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.”**

**As John wrote this passage, there were two (2) things (facts) in the back of his mind:**

**1. The love of God and love of others are inseparable parts of the same experience.**

*Two great commandments:*

- *Love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength;*
- *Love our neighbor as ourselves.*

*(No greater commandments than these).....Mark 12:28-31*

**2. The natural law of human life.**

*Family love is a part of nature. Children love parents; parents love children; siblings love each other.*

*Now....John transfers this thought to Christian thought and experience...*

*The Christians undergo the experience of being reborn (God is their Father...loving Him for all that He has done for them)*

**The birth, however, is into a family...and the rebirth must characterize the family experience....loving father, mother, brother and sister. (Mark 3:35).**

**It has been said: “Man is not only born to love, he is also born to be loved.”**

**1 John 5:3-5, “In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

**Obedience is the only proof of love.**

**We cannot prove our love to anyone other than by seeking to please and bring joy to that person.**

**What other scripture speaks about “proving” our love for God?**

**When John states that God’s commandments are not heavy...he tells us why they do not have to be heavy.**

**(John does not mean that obedience to God’s commandments is easy to achieve.)**

**Christian love is no easy matter.**

***It is not easy to love people whom we do not like...or those that hurt our feelings...or injure us.***

**How is it that John can explain this passage...(that His commandments are easy...not heavy)?**

***Here is how.....Matthew 11:30, “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”***

- ***God never will lay a commandment on anyone without also giving strength to carry it out.***

***With the vision comes the power; with the need for it comes the strength.***

***What is impossible for us becomes possible with God...Luke 18:27***

***Luke 1:37, “For nothing is impossible with God.”***

- ***Our response to God must be the response of love; and, for love, no duty is too hard and no task too great.***
- ***There is something in Christians which makes us able to conquer the world (worldly thoughts, worldly actions, and worldly passions)....that is FAITH.***

***Faith...comes from hearing—and hearing by the Word of God.***

***Faith...Power to overcome.***

***Faith...in the incarnation (Jesus as God's Son)...and the conviction that God shares and God cares.***

**Once we possess that faith...certain things follow:**

**1. We have a defense to resist the infections of the world.**

*The pressures of worldly standards and motives; fascinations of the wrong things. From within and from outside come the temptations which are part of the human situation in a world and a society not interested in and sometimes hostile to God.*

**2. We have a strength to stand up to the attacks of the world.**

***The human situation (life) is full of things which seek to take our faith away*** (sorrows; perplexities of life; disappointments and frustrations of life; failures and discouragements of life).

***But....There is a God...and there is His Spirit living within us to give us strength to fight the battle!***

**3. We have the indestructible hope of final victory.**

*The world did its worst to Jesus. After the cross came the resurrection and.....After the shame came the glory!*

*Jesus....is with us...for us...and He offers us a share in that victory which was His...*

***If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God....and was the first resurrection....we can count us in on the victory through the cross...and into heaven to be with***

***Him.....forever!***

**1 John 5:6-8, “This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the<sup>[a]</sup> Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”**

**Water and the Blood...**

**Could mean:**

- ***(Baptism of Jesus.....and the Crucifixion of Jesus)***
- ***Born of woman....water breaks and the baby comes forth... Born of God...blood of Jesus...His DNA.***

***John 19:34-35, “One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified—so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)”***

***John was very much a part of Jesus' ministry. It is pretty plain that John was the only one that could testify that he saw water and blood flow from Jesus' side.***

***The Triple Witness....***

***The Holy Spirit....and the water and the blood make it a fact....that Jesus was the Messiah.***

***Why do you know that you are saved?***

***The Holy Spirit testifies...***

***Remember....the Holy Spirit was the one that convicted you and convinced you that Jesus...died for you and is living today making intercession for you today at the right hand of God.***

***The Spirit descended upon Jesus in a special way at His baptism...***

***While John came to baptize with water, Jesus came to baptize with the Spirit (Mark 1:8; Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5, 2:33).***

***He came to bring the Spirit with a power previously unknown.***

***The history of the early Church is the proof that this was no idle claim. It began at Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and repeated itself over and over again in history and experience of the Church (Acts 8:17; Acts 10:44)***

***Jesus had the Spirit, and He could give the Spirit to men and women; and the continuing evidence of the Spirit in the Church was – and is – an undeniable witness to the continuing power of Jesus Christ.***

***The act of baptism (water baptism) and the observance of the Lord's Supper depict and testify to our rebirth....and the blood that was spilled out for our sins.***

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