

God Is Love

2-27-22

1 John 4:16 (ESV)

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides (lives) in love abides (lives) in God, and God abides (lives) in him.

Previous verses 13-15 rehearse that we are true believers through Jesus Christ and by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God is Love and our salvation is evidence that HE loves us. God does love us, but it is important that we are convinced that God loves us. Thus, in verse 16, it is stated that we have come to know this and have come to rely on this over time and by experience. Love from other sources may prove undependable; even brothers and sisters from one's own community can turn in hatred and rejection, but God's love can reassure us. God's love is not turned on and off, present one day but gone the next, because God is love. Love is God's essential nature. All that God does toward us all the time arises out of HIS love for us. We also see the continuing emphasis on mutual indwelling. *God's love and a life lived in love is assurance against any contradictions made by others.*

1 John 4:17 (ESV)

... .. As God is so also are we in this world.

Let God be God in the man! We are to function as Jesus did in this world. Being like him means walking as he did, being a beloved child of God, not practicing sin, and loving one another. A direct likeness is drawn between Jesus and the Christian.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

We have confidence in our salvation and our growth in God's love. Therefore, we are not afraid of God, but rest in HIS love.

1 John 4:18 (ESV)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

The other side of love is fear. If we truly abide in the Father's love, it follows that we will be without fear. "Perfect love drives out fear." Love and fear are incompatible. They cannot coexist. Whatever may take place in this world cannot nullify the power of God's love nor separate us from it. Similarly, the proportion to which we fear reveals the proportion to which we deny God's love and fail to trust him.

Love drives out fear!

Romans 8:31–32 (ESV) **NO/OH**

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

It is of absolute necessity that we understand God's love for us, so that we will have the capacity love.

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

We love because God first loved us.

Somewhere along the way in our life we came to understand that God loved us. When we understood that God loved us, we loved HIM back. The capacity to love comes from the fact God loved us first. To the extent we fail to know God's love, we will be limited in our ability to love one another. When we say we don't love another believer, we are making a statement about our own relationship with God.

1 John 4:20 (ESV)

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Oh, my goodness! He who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. If one fails the test of loving his **visible brother, he also makes a statement that he is incapable of loving the **invisible** God. Thus, this person proves that there is no true capacity to love within them. Summarize:**

1 John 4:21 (ESV)

And this commandment we have from God: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Perspective! Look at God's logic! I love the way the King James version of the Bible says this.

1 John 5:1 (KJV)

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone that loveth HIM that begat loveth him also that is begotten of HIM.

Everyone that loveth HIM (God) that begat loveth him also that is begotten of HIM (God).

Since we have been begotten of God, we love God who **begat**. We also love our brother or sister in Christ who also were **begotten**. It would not make any sense to claim to love God while refusing to love HIS children. What Jesus said about husband and wife may also be said of love for God and for one's fellow believer, "What God has joined together, let man not separate."

God is Love:

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.