

FIRST JOHN 4:12-19 SEEING GOD THROUGH LOVE; CONSUMMATION OF LOVE!

(1Jn 4:12-19) No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. [13] By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. [14] And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. [15] Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. [16] And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. [17] Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. [19] We love Him because He first loved us.

Seeing God Through Love (36x in 1 John; 21x in chap four – 1/v.; 1 in every 86 vs. in Bible)

1Jn 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. (Exo 33:20) But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." (Joh 1:18) No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (Jn 14:6-9) Jesus said to him (Thomas), "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." [7] "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." [8] Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- **No one has seen God at any time, God is Spirit**, thus being invisible to us in these bodies, but God today can, and does manifest Himself through believers loving each other!
- **If we are filled by the Spirit of God who indwells us**, we are going to manifest this kind of love to the world.
- **We cannot love as God wants us to love apart from His agape love** working through us. We are His instruments through which God's divine love is manifested.

If we love one another, God abides (meno – to continually dwell or stay) in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

- **The perfection that is needed - (1Jn 2:5)** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
- **"His love is perfected in us."** His love is developed. It has been completed, in us. It is a growth in us. The world is not seeing enough of this love, and yet it has seen it in the lives of a great many believers.
- **It is a wonderful thing to see how God's love becomes** perfected in our lives. We know that we are to love one another. We are commanded by the scriptures. And Jesus said, If you love those that love you, that is really not too significant. Worldly people do that. The real test is loving the unlovely!
- **"God is love," then, is not simply a profound biblical statement.** It is the basis for a believer's relationship with God and with his fellowman. Because *God is love*, we can love.
- **His love is not just past history; it is present reality.** "Love one another" begins as a commandment (1Jn 4:7), then it becomes a privilege (1Jn 4:11). But it is more than a commandment or a privilege. It is also the thrilling consequence and evidence of our abiding in Christ (1Jn 4:12). Loving one another is not something we simply ought to do; it is something we want to do.

1Jn 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us,

- (Joh 14:19-20) A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. [20] At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

because He has given us of His Spirit. The proof, the evidence, we have - (1Jn 3:24) Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He

has given us. **(Rom 5:5)** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- **He has given me the Holy Spirit.** What is the fruit of the Spirit? Love. Because I love, I know that God dwells in me and I am dwelling in Him. He has given me the Holy Spirit; the fruit of the Spirit is love.
- **He gives me the Spirit that I might have that kind of love.** It is the love in the realm of the Spirit. You cannot have that love apart from the Spirit. You cannot manufacture that. You cannot make that up. You cannot say, I am going to love and come into an agape kind of a love. It just is beyond us and our own human efforts or nature.
- **The real evidence that your life is filled with the Spirit** is not your ability to speak in tongues. It is not your ability to prophesy or to work miracles. It is not your ability to understand deep, spiritual mysteries. But it is God's love that is manifested in you.
- **The Kingdom of God is an invisible Kingdom**, that is made visible by the obedience of God's people! Every time we are obeying God's Word, the Kingdom of God becomes visible and is real! It is like the wind, invisible, but you can see its' effect. The changes occur within our lives!

1Jn 4:14 *And we have seen and testify that (Joh 1:14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. (Luk 19:10) for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Joh 3:17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- **In previous verses, believers manifest the Father** through their love for one another. In these verses 14 and 15 we see the manifestation of the Father through the results of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and the confession of the gospel effect on believers' lives in being so dramatically changed by believing, confessing and testifying in what Jesus has done through their being born again.
- **This is the gospel witness today for us!** The weight of this truth obliges us to testify of it. The salvation of the world lies upon it. The evidence of the truth warrants us to testify of it; our eyes, and ears, and hands, have been witnesses of it.
- **We bear witness to you that He came.**

The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. This is the message which we have to give. This is the purpose of our love.

1Jn 4:15 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, (Luk 12:8) "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. (Rom 10:9) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

God abides in him, and he in God. (Joh 1:18) *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

- **The second manifestation** mentioned is that he will believe and declare that Jesus is the Son of God. **(Joh 10:30-33)** *I and My Father are one." [31] Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. [32] Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" [33] The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*
- **This is how we are saved.** In Romans 10 the Apostle Paul said that you do not need to think that salvation is some experience that is difficult, far away, way off in the universe, hard to attain. But he said salvation is very near to you. It is as close as your mouth and your heart. **(Rom 10:9)** *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- **John tells us, "Whosoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."** That is, he has the Spirit of God. This is one of the big issues that the Jehovah Witnesses do not get – that Jesus is the Son of God! It is not that just anyone could die on the cross for our sins. Forgiveness came through Jesus Christ only because He was the Divine Son of God and He was God the Son, that His death on the cross provided the salvation that it has for us! We have salvation because the Son of

God died on the cross! (*Joh 8:24*) *Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

(1Jn 4:16) And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God,

- ***(1Jn 3:24) Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.***

and God in him. (Joh 14:23) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

- **The Christian must *know* and *believe* the love God has for us.**
- **This is the Christian's proper response** to who God is, and how He loves us. We are called to take the love and grace God gives, to know it by experience and to believe it. This is what fellowship with God is all about.
- **God is love. Therefore, if we are His**, if we are abiding in Him, we will, like Him, love others.
- **He who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.** The Christian who has this kind of relationship with God will be virtually "immersed" in God's love. It becomes their environment, their place of abiding.
- **The story of loving your neighbor** – My neighbor is impossible! I have tried to show love to them, but nothing works. Being told that it is better to pray the God will give a true spiritual love for them, in a few weeks, the love for my neighbor had grown and I had grown spiritually as well. My neighbors have not really changed much, but my attitude has changed. I used to do things to win their approval. But now I do things for Jesus' sake, because He died for them – it makes all the difference in the world!

The Consummation Through Love vs. 17 - 19

1Jn 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness (not arrogance) in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. (1Jn 2:28) And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

- **God's love is never to be used as an excuse** to live a sinful life, as the false teachers were teaching, but it should produce a life that is holy and loving. A life that looks like God.
- **As believers, as we live a life like God by the power of the Holy Spirit and obey His Word**, then we will look forward to our judgment day (Bema seat), rewards seat. (*2 Cor. 5:10*) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat (Bema) of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
- **The believers judgment seat is not** the Great White Throne Judgment (*Rev. 20:11-15*), which will be at the end of the 1,000 year millennial reign), not with dread or fear, but "*boldness*", confidence and assurance, at the coming of the Lord, understanding the love of God, knowing that we are no longer under judgment because of not having salvation. He will give an eternal crown/s to those who have been good and faithful. (*1Th 2:19 crown of rejoicing; 2Ti 4:8 the crown of righteousness; Jas 1:12 the crown of life; 1Pe 5:4 the crown of glory; Rev 2:10 the crown of life*).
- **How do we have that confidence today, not just on that day?** How are we to live to be faithful? By just living a life of obedience to the word of God. A life that looks like God. That we can know that judgment day for us is going to be good day! God wants it to be a good day for all of us!
- **We will know the mark of love has been perfected**, that it has reached its maturity when we stand in His presence.
- **We will have freedom of speech.** We will be able to say "Father" and understand Jesus saying, (*Joh 17:23*) *I in them, and You in Me*; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.
- **It is because of who God is.** He is the source of the love that has saved us and has removed us from judgment.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect (not yet come to maturity) in love. (Rom 8:15) For you did not

receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (2Ti 1:7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- **No fear! No torment!** It is because of what perfect, full maturity, love does. *Love casts out fear!* A true understanding of the love of God for me!
- **We represent God to the world** if we know how completely God loves us! We do not need to fear. A true understanding of what was demonstrated on Calvary, removes any fear of God's judgment within my life! Any obedient Christian who is fearful of judgment has no real understanding of the greatness of His love for us.
- **God does not intend that any believer should be fearful of Him** or to walk in torment, looking forward to the Bema Seat judgment, to being with Him forever!
- **If you are a believer, you have done the single greatest thing that you can do to bless your Father's heart** by trusting in His Son. It is immeasurable what you have done by putting your faith in the Savior that He has sent!
- **Consider just how much God loves us!** He will not allow anything to take place in our lives which does not serve a good purpose!

1Jn 4:19 We love Him because (a response word) **He first loved us.**

- **(1Jn 4:10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**
- **God is the initiator! We are responders!** We love Him only because He first loved us. We cannot originate our love. It has divine origin and is impossible apart from Him!
- **That is the incentive for love. To know and to understand God's love for us.** It energizes a responsive chord in my heart to realize that someone loves me that much. It causes my heart to respond and I love Him because He first loved me.
- **When we see what He has done for us, we cannot help but respond!** Unless we get this right, we will never serve for the right reason. We will never love others for the right reason. We will never love the lost for the right reason because we are never fully energized unless we are a responder!
- **Living a Christian life, being initiated in your strength is a real losing proposition** but being on fire for the Lord and responding out of love to His love is a wonderful thing! **The Christian life is a life of response.** Attempts to serve Him to earn anything for myself only leads to frustrating defeat!
- **I cannot earn anything more than He has already given me in Christ!** As I look to Him, understanding of all that He has done for me, my only response, helped by the Holy Spirit is to live obediently to Him in appreciation for that all He is first done for me.
- **That is a motivation that can carry you through life!** To try do good to earn more love, or anything, from Him will last a week, maybe a month, but ultimately you will crash and burn under that motivation! It will not hold up.
- **You have changed my life! I cannot believe how good You have been to me.** Lord, in response to how good You have been to me, I want to obey You today.
- **Would You freshly fill me with Your Holy Spirit to do that today?** That is a motivation that can last and last and last!

Pray Today: We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! *President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance;* Senate majority leader **John Thune**; Speaker of the House **Mike Johnson**; We thank You for the many believers in our current leadership! We pray for more!

MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU *Maranatha Singers (3:11)*

My peace I give unto you It's a peace that the world cannot give It's a peace that the world cannot understand Peace to know, peace to live My peace I give unto you
My love I give unto you It's a love that the world cannot give It's a love that the world cannot understand Love to know, love to live My love I give unto you
It's a love that the world cannot understand My love I give unto you