

I John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. **I John 4:7-12 NASB**

- God is love...love comes from God...so do we! (v7-8)
 - True love (agape) comes from God. (v7)
 - Everyone who is born of God loves.
 - Everyone 'begat' or fathered by God loves because they are connected to the source of love.
 - Those who don't know the love of God and don't show the love of God have not been fathered by God.
- God's magnificent process (v9) ...He sent His Son into this world so we could live through Him.
 - "So we might find life through Him" – TCNT
 - This can also be translated..." that we live in His hand."
 - "That we might have life through Him." – TEV
 - He wants us to find our true life 'through' Jesus...
 - Where are you finding 'life'? Where have you been looking?
- Commanded, constrained, and committed to love (v10-12)
 - Jesus is again declared to be the propitiation for our sins...even when we were "against" Him, He loved us...He stood up for us. (v10)
- The 'command' to love..." He so loved us..." We 'ought' to love one another:
 - This 'ought to' is a command but it is not like you may think.
 - It is a 'ought to' of 'internal constraint', not just 'external compulsion':
 - When we are in touch with the source of love and have been helped and healed by His love then we have the reason and the desire to give it away.

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls *and* urges *and* impels us, because we are of the opinion *and* conviction that [if] One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ And He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to *and* for themselves, but to *and* for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 AMPC**

HE STANDS UP FOR US – PART VIII

For the love which Christ has [for me] presses on me from all sides, holding me to one end and prohibiting me from considering any other, wrapping itself around me in tenderness, giving me an impelling motive, having brought me to this conclusion, namely, that One died on behalf of all, therefore all died, and that he also died on behalf of all in order that those who are living no longer are living for themselves but for the One who died on their behalf and instead of them, and was raised. So that, as for us, from this particular time onward, not even one individual do we know as judged upon the basis of human standards. Even though we [Paul in his unsaved state] have known Christ as judged by human standards, yet now no longer do we know Him as such. So that, assuming that anyone is in Christ, he is a creation new in quality. The antiquated, out-of-date things [which do not belong to the new life in Christ Jesus] have passed away. Behold, all things have become new in quality. **2 Corinthians 5:14-20 Wuest**

- “No one has seen God at any time. (I John 4:12)
- But His love is ‘perfected’...the goal of His love is ‘completed’, when we love each other...His love reaches His intended goal when His love flows through us to others.

¹³By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶We 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. ¹⁷By 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰If 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. ²¹And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. **I John 4:13-21 NASB**

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. **I Timothy 1:17 NASB**

- We know God by His spirit, His Word, and His love.
 - We abide in Him, and He abides in us by the Holy Spirit. (I John 4:13-16)
 - He is immortal, external, and invisible.
 - We can’t know him purely by the use of our senses.

HE STANDS UP FOR US – PART VIII

- He is not a collection of sensory data and information to be analyzed, organized, and cataloged.
- He is an infinite eternal person who is Love and who is Truth.
- So how do we know that we know that we know?
 - We have been given the Holy Spirit. (See **Acts 2:38-39, Romans 9:9, Ephesians 5:18**)
 - We have the testimony of the Apostles. (See **John 15:26-27, 2 Peter 1:16, I John 1:1-4**)
 - We have our own personal acknowledgement of Jesus as God's Son. (**I John 4:13-15**)
 - We have our confidence in the love of God. (See **Philippians 1:9, I John 4:16-19**)
 - Our confidence is based on His love and His finished work.
 - Fear and love are mutually exclusive. Our word 'phobia' is a transliteration of 'fear'.

¹⁷ In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion *and* attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors *and* expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection]. **I John 4:17-18 AMPC**

- Love is the offspring of freedom...when we are free from fear, love reigns and confidence in God flourishes.
- We have confidence when we love the family of God and are loved by them. (**I John 4:19-21**)
- Look at the **I John 4:17...**'As He is, so are we in this world.
 - "Just what He is (in Heaven) we also are in the world." - **Weymouth**
 - "Here in the world, we are living as He did." - **Williams NT**
 - "All that Jesus now is, so are we in this world..." - **The Passion Translation**
 - "We must know men in order to love them, but we must love God in order to know Him..." - **Pascal**