

God is Love

**Big Idea As we come to know and believe the love that God has for us it will continually transform our lives.**

### **1 John 4:13-21**

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 his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 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. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 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. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

### **What Makes you feel safe? Secure? At Peace?- Is Home the place you feel safest?**

What kinds of turmoil do phrases like "I am in danger! I am really worried about..."

When do you feel the most unsafe or afraid?

Illus. Junk yard dog- Biggest scariest dog in the world...in my mind. I remember when I was young, and my family had gone on a walk. Mom, Dad, Ryan, Amber and I were out for an uncommon thing. I don't remember really ever doing this. We were walking in some woods behind our sub division. We came into a clearing where we came up on a large dog. The dog went crazy. A terrifying bark and came charging at us. I remember my dad saying stay here behind me and don't run. I remember vividly not being afraid. **I knew that in order for that dog to get to me it had to go through my super hero of a dad and that wasn't going to happen. How did I know that? Nothing had ever been big enough to get past my dad to harm me. He had always been there to protect me. Why it was so hard to lose him!**

### **I believe this is the kind of faith and security that John wants us to come to know and trust about God's Love.**

Earlier in John's life when he wrote his gospel spent the entire book wanting Jesus' followers to BELIEVE who Jesus is. The Goodness of Jesus and His saving work. He uses the word believe 100 times in his book where it is only used 34 times in the other 3 gospels combined.

**John Refers to himself as "the disciple Jesus loved". How cool is that. Defined by Jesus' Love**

### **John 21:6-7**

He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. **7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"** When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

Remember last week 1 John 4:12 John tells Christians no one has ever seen God but then reminds the church

In verse **14 BUT I HAVE SEEN GOD.** 60 years ago, I walked with him. I experienced God's love on the beach before Jesus went to prepare a place for us. I know he will return.

### **John 21:24–25**

24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

John: I Remember. **John had come to know and believe the love that God has for him.** And as an old man Exiled. he is writing a book that is so redundantly banging the drum that God is love and he abides in us and we in Him, **so we can experience peace and security in ways that no other thing can ever bring us.**

Hey, look at me God loves you! Yeah, I know. Hey, did you hear me God is love and He laid down his life for you and calls you friends! Ok I hear you. No listen to me! I know this to be true You can experience this truth **The answer to EVERYTHING is Abide in Him!**

### **1 John 4:16**

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

Illus. Three Cups. We abide in God and God in us. **Ps 139:5–6** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Swaddling a baby- the baby feels safe like she did for 9 months in her mothers womb. Where he has abided. This truth of he abides in us and we in him is swaddling for our souls. It is the answer to all our anxiety. All our inner turmoil. Do you believe this? **Can you grasp this truth? [INSERT SWADDLE SLIDES]**



**This is one of the great heights of the Christian life: to know and to trust in God's love.**

John at the end of his life and when it was almost time to go to His heavenly father to finally be reunited face to face **wants you and I to grasp that God's love is perfected in us and is better than anything else on this planet.**

As we come to know and believe that God's love is being perfected in us and that God is love 3 things will begin to happen in us.

1. **We will have confidence for the day of Judgement.**

### **1 John 4:17**

17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, **because as he is so also are we in this world.**

We have confidence because God sees us the same way he sees Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin so that on Judgement day where we will either be granted eternal life with Jesus or suffer eternal condemnation we can be at peace and confident we will be welcomed home because of Jesus' Propitiation Love. Jay so brilliantly preached about last night

**Propitiation: A love that satisfies the wrath of God by taking his anger for another upon oneself.**

**We are as He is in this world.**

John Stott- The Day of judgement will be that of shame and terror for the wicked, but not for the redeemed people of God. We are sons and daughters of God. We are the objects of God's love and favor like Him.

**Therefore, if Jesus called and calls God "Father" so may we.  
So we share the confidence before God which He enjoys.**

**Perfect love along with Confidence it also Casts out Fear.**

**1 John 4:18**

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.

Illus. I remember the first time my mom told me just wait until you dad gets home! Go to your room and wait till he gets here! UH-oh. I have messed up. I had done something stupid and earned a visit by the dreaded wooden Paddle that lived on top of the refrigerator. Now the paddle didn't come to visit very often but it was still feared. Well one of the last times before it was retired by my mom was when instead of submitting to the power of the paddle and swearing off ever sinning and learning my lesson I laughed and told my mom it didn't even hurt earning me my first "wait till your dad gets home...we will see if you say the same! I remember the intense fear I had of my dad getting home. What he was going to do when he found out I had disrespected my mom. It was miserable.

**Without Jesus we DO have to fear God coming home. We will receive God's wrath. But as believers, we no longer have to fear judgement.**

I think many of us live in this terror of God's wrath. I think John knew we would fear God's punishment. And John had experienced the kind of Love that casts out this fear of God and his wrath.

**Ro 8:15**

For you did not receive the spirit of **slavery to fall back into fear**, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Preaching Cohort this week Janet was speaking of her experience in learning that she never lives with the expectation that she won't ever need to be reminded that she is loved. This really resonated with me. **What happens when I DO fall back into fear?**

**Pastor Allistair Begg preaches When we listen to lies of the enemy that tells us that when God tells us He will forgive our sins and forget them that there must me somehow he doesn't really mean that. When we hear that Jesus died and bore all of our sins that he missed some of it.  
This fear of God's wrath paralyzes us. But Perfect love casts out this fear.**

We must depend on the spirit within us to remind us of our standing before God. That we don't have to be afraid.

**We cannot approach Him in love and hide from him in fear at the same time- Stott**

Love being perfected as we grow in Christ is a **sanctifying process**. We are growing in our walks to look more and more like Jesus.

**THE WITH OF GOD.** When we are trusting in God's perfect love in us that Cast out fear, we realize like I did in the woods with the angry dog that our father is always with us. It doesn't mean that we will not experience unpleasant things in this world. Crisis. Pain. Tribulation. But in all of it we have a perfect heavenly Father that is with us always. **THE WITH OF GOD**

**Mt 28:19–20** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age."

**Not only does perfect love give us confidence before God and casts out fear, but as we know and trust His love for us it will cast out hatred.**

**This perfect love that starts deep within our hearts will cast out hatred and will overflow out of our lives in Love.**

**1 John 4:20**

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.

**Calvin- It is easier to love and serve a visible human being than an invisible God, and if we fail in the earlier task, it is absurd to claim success in the harder.**

**The key to this command to love our neighbors is explained in the easiest verse to memorize today**

**1 John 4:19**

**We love because he first loved us**

**NOT LOVING PEOPLE? STOP THAT?**

Simple- having trouble loving people? You may be trying to love people out of order. I asked earlier Can you grasp this truth that we can abide in God and He in us. But I heard it put this way earlier this week the answer is not necessarily grasping the truth that God loved us first, but we need that truth to grasp us. We need this truth to lay hold of us. Like a swaddled infant at complete peace never fearing because our perfect parent is always with us.

**Do you believe God's perfect love abides in you and that God is eager to be good to you and to love you in ways that cast out fear and hate? Do you really? Has it grasped you and captured your heart?**

If it has you will find yourself loving people more freely even when it is difficult to do so. When I see that God has loved me with a perfected love as sinful as I am then **surely, I can find in with in me literally to love others.**

**This kind of love like love being perfected in me is a process**

**It involves a continuing love towards others; it is the realization that salvation is a kingdom of love! When you abide in God's love it not only brings you confidence and calmness and peace, it has to overflow to others also**

**Like Brian preached a couple of weeks ago. When we abide in God and He in us we will love others even when it is sacrificial.** What does it look like for you to love Sacrificially this week? How can allow the truth that God loves you with a perfect love grasp your heart? **May we be FREED to love well.** Because God first loved us....

Command: **Mk 12:30–31**

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

In the song Glorious Day- Your mercy has saved my Soul/now your freedom is all I know/ The old made new Jesus when I met you/You called my name and I ran out of that grave!

I have come to know and trust God's love for me gives me confidence before him and casts out fear, so I can love supernaturally.

Prayer/ communion

Scripture ,What I would like to be on slides, I want to make sure I say but doesn't need to be on slide  
Illustration or story