

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear - 1 John 4:16-19 (VFC 01/21/2024)

Seven Assurances of God's Love (vv. 7-21)

1. God is love (vv. 7, 8)
 - a. God is spirit (John 4:24) and we must worship Him in spirit and truth.
 - b. God is light (1 John 1:5) and in Him is no darkness at all.
2. The Cross of Christ (vv. 9, 10) "In this the love of God was manifested in us..."
 - a. That we might live *through* Christ. Not only do we live through Christ but *for* Him (2 Corinthians 5:15) and *with* Him (1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10).
 - b. That Christ would be the propitiation for our sins.
3. Christian's love for each other (vv. 11, 12; 20, 21)

Verse 11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." Verse 21 "whoever loves God must also love his brother."

4. The witness of the Holy Spirit (v. 13) "By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit."
5. The testimony of the Apostles (v. 14) "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."
 - a. Paul (Acts 26:12-20)
 - b. Peter (2 Peter 1:16-21)
6. Our personal acknowledgement of Jesus as God's Son (v. 15) "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."
7. Because He first loved us (vv. 16-19)

When we fully embrace just how much God loves us, we will:

- Seek to abide in Him and have His love abide in us (v.16).
- Realize that we are His ambassadors, and our mission is to preach the message of reconciliation between God and man (v. 17).
- Have no fear of the future judgment because we have matured (perfected) to the point that we no longer are susceptible to the devil's lies about our future. (v.18).
- We love because He first loved us. He initiated this relationship with no guarantee that we would respond (v. 19).

Epilogue: Warren Wiersbe writes, "A man standing in the greeting card section of a store was having trouble picking out a card. The clerk asked if she could help, and he said, 'Well, it's our fortieth wedding anniversary, but I can't find a card that says what I want to say. You know, forty years ago it wouldn't have been any problem picking out a card, because, back then, I didn't know what love is. But we love each other so more today, I just can't find a card that says it.' This is a growing Christian's experience with God ... as he shares the Father's love with others, he experiences more of the Father's love himself."