

# 1 John Chapter 4: Discerning Spirits & Vital Love in a Hostile World

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ and Make MUCH of God

## 1 John Chapter 3 Review:

- I. **Our Father's Manner of Love toward His children:** Salvation
  1. **APEARANCE #2** The Rapture
  2. Like Him; No Sin/no struggle, redemption of our bodies; **position**
- II. **Known by Their Fruit**
  1. **APEARANCE #1** The Incarnation/Life/Resurrection of Jesus
  2. Victory over Sin/ Deliverance from the Power of Sin; **practice**
- III. **Love in Action: Our Heart's Assurance**
  1. Loving in Truth; Laying down our lives
- IV. **Witness of the Holy Spirit: Spirit's Assurance**
  1. God's Holy Spirit abides in believers; i.e. who believe in the Name of Jesus and keep His commandment to love

## 1 John Chapter 4

### I. Discerning the Spirits of False Religion

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, **do not believe** every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because many **false prophets have gone out** into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God**; <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not **confess Jesus** is not from God; this is the **spirit of the antichrist**, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

- **Do not believe every spirit** but **"test" the spirits**; Every prophet; [i.e. those who presume to speak for God]; have a spirit speaking through them and ...many false prophets [i.e. the spirit of error] have gone into the world
- This is how you know/test what spirit is behind words; i.e. **Spirit of Truth/Error**:
  1. **Spirit from God**: confesses Jesus Christ came **IN THE FLESH**
  2. **Spirit of Anti-Christ**: Will **not** confess Jesus [Deity] has come in the flesh
- **Docetist Gnostics**: believe Jesus did not have a physical body
- **Cerinthus Gnostics**: believe Jesus and "the Christ" were *two separate beings*; one physical and the other spiritual; i.e. the "divine" Christ descended upon Jesus at baptism and left before His crucifixion.
- John refutes these Gnostic heresies by purposefully using the Lord's name and title *together*; i.e. **Jesus Christ has come in the flesh...always and forever God**

## Jesus has always been/will always be... God:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God. John 1:14** And the **Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Jesus is Alpha and Omega; Beginning and End; No other God

**Isaiah 43:10** "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD," And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that **I am He Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.**

**Isaiah 44:6** "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: **'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.**

**Revelation 1:8** "I am the **Alpha and the Omega**," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, **the Almighty.**"

**Revelation 22:12** "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup>"I am the **Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**"

## Jesus is the "I AM" Who spoke to Moses from the burning bush

**Exodus 3:13** Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM";** and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, **'I AM has sent me to you.'**"

**John 8:21** Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." <sup>22</sup> So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come?'" <sup>23</sup> And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup>"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; **for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

**John 8:58** Jesus said to them [religious leaders], "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am.**"

<sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and have **overcome them**; because **greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us By this we know the **spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

- **You are from God and have overcome them** [false prophets]:
- Maturity/discernment **in the Word** +anointing from the Holy Spirit [c.f. 1 John 2:20]

**1 John 2:13** ... I am writing to you, **young men, because you have overcome the evil one...**I have written to you, **young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.**

**Note:** *Later the Ephesians would take this test to the extreme, leaving their first love [Jesus] for legalism [c.f. Revelation 2:1]*

**SUMMARY:** John gives the Ephesians and us a simple test to discern the spirit of truth and error; Truth: Jesus is God come in the flesh to bring us Salvation.

## **II. Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Salvation

*"Because lawlessness is increased, **most people's love will grow cold.** 13" But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14" This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. [Matthew 24:12-14]*

**Rationale:** [God] gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> for the **equipping of the saints for the work of service.** [Ephesians 4:11]

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **<sup>8</sup>The one who does not love does not know God,** for God is love.

- If we are saved we *will* grow in **love**; the mark of a **believer**

**Galatians 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love.**

**Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**"

- The one who does not love *does not know God...God is Love*

<sup>9</sup>By 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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

- **Father's love manifested;** i.e. made known, by sending His Son [pleased to *crush*]
- **God loved...so we ought to love;** if we know God's love we will love, if we know His forgiveness we will forgive:
- Pharisees [read "false-teachers"] did not understand their **depravity**

**John 9:39** And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." 40Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" 41Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, '**We see,**' **your sin remains.**"

**Mark 2:17** And hearing this, Jesus said to them, " It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; **I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

**Mark 11:25** "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. 26["But if you do not forgive, **neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.**"]

- The sinful woman did understand her depravity and **responded** in love:

**Luke 7:47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, **which are many**, have been forgiven, for **she loved much**; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

<sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time; **if we love one another, God abides in us**, and **His love is perfected** in us.

- **IF** we love on another...God abides in us...and love is **PERFECTED**
- Man created in the image of God is our **tangible way to love God**

**Matthew 25:40** ... 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, **you did it to Me.**'

**Matthew 25:45** ...'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, **you did not do it to Me.**'

<sup>13</sup> **By this we know** that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>We have seen and testify that the **Father has sent the Son** to be the **Savior** of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> We 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.

- We know we **abide** because God has given us His Spirit Who opens our eyes and heart to the fact that...
  1. God loved us so...
  2. Father sent the Son to be our desperately needed Savior
  3. We are abiding in God and God in us when **we abide in love... for others**

**SUMMARY:** If we are saved *we will grow* in love...if we *love we will grow* in confidence:

### III. Vital Importance of Love with regard to Confidence

- Love equips us with **courage**:

**Revelation 21:8** "But for the **cowardly** and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

<sup>17</sup>By 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.

- **By this love is perfected; made complete:** By what? By **Abiding in Love**
- **Perfected:** I.e. made complete in love; As we love others we love God and love is made complete; we have **Confidence in the day of judgment**:

<sup>18</sup>**There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love, because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If 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. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him, that **the one who loves God should love his brother also**.

1. There is **NO fear in love**
2. Perfect [Complete] love [God and others] **casts out fear**
3. **Why Fear? Because we are not doing as God commands ...love others**

**E.g.** *Children live in fear of punishment if they are not doing what they are told; in confident assurance when they are*

4. **Fear is legitimate** if we are not loving one another we fear of punishment/judgment; **We cannot love God if we are not loving others:**

**1 John 1:20** The one who does not love his brother...**cannot love God**

**1 John 4:7** Beloved, 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.

5. **We will NOT live in fear or depression if we are loving others**

**Genesis 4: 6** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup>"If you do well, will not **your countenance be lifted up?** And if you do not **do well**, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

**SUMMARY:** Doing well means keeping God's command to love; we have **confidence**

now and at judgment; we also glorify God as we love one another:

## **IV. Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Glorifying God Gospel of John 15:1-11

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3" You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4" **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

- **As we abide in Christ and Christ in us we will have no fear, but Bear Much Fruit [change]**

**Galatians 5:22** ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and **cast them into the fire and they are burned**. 7"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8"**My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples**.

- **Wrong question:** Lose salvation? Right question: **Are we abiding and bearing good fruit?**

**"We are eternally secure as we abide in Christ"** Chuck Smith

- **The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit**
- We must **abide in Christ** to bear fruit. **What does it mean to abide in Christ?**

9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10"**If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love**; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

- **Abiding in Christ is proved out** by keeping **His commandments; what are His commandments?**

11"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 12"**This is My commandment**, that you love one another, **just as I have loved you**.

1. Abiding will make us complete [full] with regard to joy
2. We abide as we keep the command to **Love one Another just as I have love you**

3. We are made complete when we **Love one Another**
4. The Father is glorified when we **Love on Another**
5. We are Perfect; I.e. Complete as we abide in Christ

**Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled [4137 accomplished; complete] in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**"

**SUMMARY:** We will bear much good fruit which will glorify the father as we abide in Christ by loving one another...Loving in **TRUTH**

## V. Danger of False Love: People Pleasing

**Loves Substitute:** We must love in truth with no appeasement to falseness...**period**

**Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere.** Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Ephesians 4:15 ...speaking the truth in love,** we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

- Speaking the truth with regard to:
  1. **False religion**
  2. **Peoples "wants"**
  3. **Discipline**; e.g. kids, the church, etc. [see "stoning" in the O.T.]
- As we seek to "love" we will naturally gravitate to **people pleasing** if not cautious
- Substitute: Anti [in the place of] Christ; People pleasing is **Self-Love** Self-serving
- **We may want to be a fragrant offering even to those perishing...THIS IS PEOPLE PLEASING...**The cross itself is an offense

**2 Corinthians 2:15** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life

- Let us **not seek to be a pleasing aroma to those perishing**
- **2 Diametrically Opposed Fears:**
  1. Fear of **God**: Wisdom[c.f. Proverbs 1:7]
  2. Fear of **Man**; People Pleasing which is a snare and a trap

**Proverbs 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

- We do not do good deeds for the approval of men, but for the glory of God:

**1 Corinthians 4:3** ...it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.

**John 2:23** Now when He [Jesus] was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,<sup>25</sup> and because He **did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**

- Jesus did what the Father showed Him as He abided in the Father:

**John 5:19** ..."Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

- We are to do **what the Father shows us:**

**Ephesians 2: 10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which *God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

**1 Samuel 15:22** Samuel said [to Saul], "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23"For **rebellion is as the sin of divination**, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry

**SUMMARY:** People pleasing is a **satanic** substitute [i.e. morality without Christ] for love. We are to love in deed and **Truth:**

## **VI. Jesus Example of True Love: Loving in Deed and Truth** Gospel of John 13:1-4

**1 John 3:18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but **in deed and truth.**

**John 15:12b** ...**love one another**, just as I have loved you.

**John 13:1** [NIV] [Read] It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.** 5After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- Jesus knew the Father's plan; He knew where He came from and where He was going...**SO HE GOT UP.** Knowing who we are in Christ...**we get up!**



## Philippians 2:1-15

**Philippians 2:1** [Read] Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, **but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;**

**Romans 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. **Honor one another above yourselves.** 11Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [NIV]

**Philippians 2:4** [Read] do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. 14Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15so that you will prove yourselves to **be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world...**

## Vital Love in a Hostile World

- **Vital Love:** Regarding others more important than ourselves:
  1. Love is a product of Salvation and a daily choice
  2. Love gives us Confidence now *and* on the Day of Judgment
  3. Love gives us the ability to Bear fruit and in turn Glorify God
  4. Love [not knowledge] will set us apart from a hostile world

**John 13:35** "By this **all men will know that you are My disciples**, if you have **love for one another.**"

## 1 John 4 SUMMARY:

I. **Discerning the Spirits** of false Religion

1. Jesus is LORD
- II. Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Salvation
  1. Growing in Love is a sign of Eternal Life
- III. Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Confidence
  1. No fear of judgment as we love others
- IV. Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Glorifying God
  1. We glorify the Father as we love others
- V. Danger of False Love:** People Pleasing
  1. Love substitute
- VI. Jesus Application of True Love:** Loving in Deed
  1. Humility a sign of Agape [God's] love

## SUPPLEMENT

### 1 John Chapter 4:7-21 and John 15 Vital Love in a Hostile World

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ and Make MUCH of God

- **Discerning the Spirits** of false Religion: Jesus is LORD
- **Vital Importance of Love** with regard to **Salvation**: Growing in Love is a sign of Eternal Life
- **Vital Importance of Love** with regard to **Confidence**: No fear of judgment as we love others
- **Vital Importance of Love** with regard to **Glorifying God**: We glorify the Father as we love others
- **Danger of False Love**: People Pleasing: Love substitute

#### I. Vital Importance of Love with regard to Salvation [Later Confidence, Glorifying God]

*"Because lawlessness is increased, **most people's love will grow cold.** 13" But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14" This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. [Matthew 24:12-14]*

**Rationale:** [God] gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints for the work of service.** [Ephesians 4:11] for such a time as this!

**1 John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

- *To know God is to know LOVE*

- If we are saved we *will* grow in **love** for God and others; i.e. the mark of a **believer**

**Galatians 5:6** ...in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love**. [Abraham showed his love for God by trusting; i.e. having faith in God as he offered everything; i.e. Isaac...James 2]

**Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**" [Love of God implied]

**John 13:35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- The one who does not love *does not know God...God is Love*

<sup>9</sup>By 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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

- **Father's love manifested;** i.e. made known, by sending His Son [pleased to *crush*]Isaiah 53:10

**Romans 5:8...God demonstrates** His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **God loved...so we ought to love;** if we know God's love we will love, if we know His forgiveness we will forgive:

**Romans 2:4** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness of God leads you to repentance?** [We must know our sin to receive His goodness, repentance, salvation]

- Pharisees [read "false-teachers"] did not understand their **depravity**

**John 9:39** ...Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, '**We see,' your sin remains.**

**Mark 2:17** ...hearing this ["how is it He eats with tax collectors and sinners], Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; **I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.**"

**Mark 11:25** "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. <sup>26</sup>"But if you do not forgive, **neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your**

transgressions."]

- Under breath "...if He knew the manner of woman that touched Him..."
- The sinful woman washed Jesus feet with her hair and poured perfume on them
- She understood her depravity and **responded** in love:

**Luke 7:47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, **which are many**, have been forgiven, for **she loved much**; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

<sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time; **if we love one another, God abides in us**, and **His love is perfected** in us.

- **IF we love on another**...God abides in us...and love is **PERFECTED**
- Man created in the image of God is our **tangible way to love God**

**Matthew 25:40** ... 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, **you did it to Me.**'

- Generalized **to all people created in the Image of God**...even those we don't like

<sup>13</sup> **By this we know** that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>We have seen and testify that the **Father has sent the Son** to be the **Savior** of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> We 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.

- We know we **abide** because God has given us His Spirit Who is our strength to love and Who opens our eyes and heart to the fact that...
  1. God loved me so...
  2. The Father sent the Son to be my desperately needed Savior
  3. We are abide in God and God in us when **we abide in love... for others**

**SUMMARY:** If we are saved *we will grow* in love...if we *love* we will grow in **confidence:**

## **II. Vital Importance of Love** with regard to #1 Salvation, now **Confidence** Faith/Freedom

- Loving equips us with **courage: No Fear**

**Revelation 21:8** "But for the **cowardly** and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake

that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

<sup>17</sup>By 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.

- **By this love is perfected; made complete:** By what? By **Abiding in Love**
- **Perfected:** I.e. we are made complete in love; As we love others we love God we have **Confidence in the day of judgment**:

<sup>18</sup>**There 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. <sup>19</sup> We love, because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If 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. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him, that **the one who loves God should love his brother also**.

- **Summary**

1. There is **NO fear in love**
2. Perfect [Complete] love [God and others] **casts out fear...ALL FEAR**
3. **Why do we Fear? Because we are not doing as God commands ...love others**

**E.g.** *Children will live in fear of punishment if they are not doing what they are told; but in confident assurance when they are doing what they know is right*

4. **Fear is legitimate** if we are not loving one another we fear of punishment/judgment because we have no confidence of salvation:

**1 John 4:20** The one who does not love his brother...**cannot love God**

**1 John 4:7** Beloved, 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.

5. **We will NOT live in Fear or Depression if we are loving others**

- Cain had a choice to make when envy/jealousy flared up...listen to God or listen to his flesh and kill his brother...

**Genesis 4: 6** ...the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup>"If you do well, will not **your countenance be lifted up?** And if you do not **do well**, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

**SUMMARY:** We have **confidence [faith/freedom] now and at judgment as we love one another; we also glorify God** as we love one another:

### III. Vital Importance of Love with regard to #1 Salvation, #2 Confidence, and #3... **Glorifying God**

#### Gospel of John 15:1-11

[Read] 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3" You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4" **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

- **As we abide in Christ and Christ in us we will have no fear, but Bear Much Fruit [change]**

**Galatians 5:22** ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and **cast them into the fire and they are burned**. 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "**My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

- **Wrong question:** Lose salvation? Right question: **Are we abiding and bearing good fruit?**

**"We are eternally secure as we abide in Christ"** Chuck Smith

- **The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit**
- We must **abide in Christ** to bear fruit. **What does it mean to abide in Christ?**

9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "**If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love;** just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

- **Abiding in Christ is proved out** by keeping **His commandments; what are His commandments?**

11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 12 "**This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.**

**John 13:1** [NIV] [Read] It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being

served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. **3Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.** 5After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- Jesus knew the Father's plan; He knew where He came from and where He was going...**SO HE GOT UP**. Knowing who we are in Christ...**we get up!**

**Philippians 2:1** [Read] Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, **but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;**

**Romans 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. **Honor one another above yourselves.** 11Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [NIV]

6. Abiding will make us complete [full] with regard to joy
7. We abide as we keep the command to **Love one Another just as I have love you**
8. We are made complete when we **Love one Another**
9. The Father is glorified when we **Love one Another**

**Galatians 5:14** For the whole Law is fulfilled [4137 accomplished; complete] in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**"

**SUMMARY:** We will bear much good fruit which will glorify the father as we abide in Christ by loving one another...Loving in **TRUTH:**

## **IV. Danger of False Love: People Pleasing**

**Loves Substitute:** We must love in truth with no appeasement to falseness...**period**

**Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere.** Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Ephesians 4:15 ...speaking the truth in love,** we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

- Speaking the truth with regard to:
  4. **False religion: No appeasement.** Churchill def: "last to be eaten"
  5. **Peoples "wants" rather than God's will**
  6. **Discipline;** e.g. kids, the church, etc. [see "stoning" in the O.T.]

- As we seek to "love" we will naturally gravitate to **people pleasing** if not cautious
- Substitute: Anti [in the place of] Christ; People pleasing is **Self-Love** Self-serving
- **We may want to be a fragrant offering "at all cost" even to those perishing [damned]** ...THIS IS PEOPLE PLEASING...The cross itself is an offense

**2 Corinthians 2:15** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an **aroma from death to death**, to the other an aroma from life to life

- Let us **not seek to be a pleasing aroma to those perishing**
- **2 Diametrically Opposed Fears:**

3. Fear of **God**: Wisdom[c.f. Proverbs 1:7]

4. Fear of **Man**; People Pleasing which is a snare and a trap

**Proverbs 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

- We do not do good deeds for the approval of men, but for the glory of God:

**1 Corinthians 4:3** ...it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.

**John 2:23** Now when He [Jesus] was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,<sup>25</sup> and because He **did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**

- Jesus did what the Father showed Him as He abided in the Father:

**John 5:19** ..."Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

- We are to do **what the Father shows us:**

**Ephesians 2: 10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which *God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

**1 Samuel 15:22** Samuel said [to Saul], "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23" For **rebellion is as the sin of divination**, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry

**SUMMARY:** People pleasing is a **satanic** substitute for love, i.e. morality without Christ and for selfish gain/good feeling]. We are to love in both deed and **Truth** as the Holy Spirit leads



## Vital Love in a Hostile World

- **Vital Love:** Regarding others more important than ourselves:
  1. Love is a product of Salvation and a daily choice
  2. Love gives us Confidence now *and* on the Day of Judgment
  3. Love gives us the ability to Bear fruit and in turn Glorify God
  4. Love [not knowledge] will set us apart from a hostile world

**John 13:35** "By this **all men will know that you are My disciples**, if you have **love for one another.**"

### 1 John Chapter 4

- I. **Discerning the Spirits** of false Religion
  1. Jesus is LORD
- II. **Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Salvation
  1. Growing in Love is a sign of Eternal Life
- III. **Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Confidence
  1. No fear of judgment as we love others
- IV. **Vital Importance of Love** with regard to Glorifying God
  1. We glorify the Father as we love others as Jesus loved us
- V. **Danger of False Love:** People Pleasing
  1. Love substitute