



“Dear Children, Perfect Love Casts Out Fear!”

1 John 4:13-21, Romans 8:1-4

Sunday | April 22nd, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

1 John 4:13-21
Romans 8:1-4

(See also John 15:18-21, Heb. 12:28-29, 1 Pet. 1:14-17, Rom. 8:14-15, Php. 1:6)

DISCUSS

1. Read 1 John 4:13-21 and identify repeating themes. John had a way of circling back to things he'd previously discussed. For those who are discouraged, what is the value of repetition?

2. John says in vs. 17, “By this is love perfected with us...” By what? (See vs. 16 and discuss).¹

3. What was the pencil sharpener all about?²

4. Why is love being perfected with us? What is it for? (See vs. 17, “So that...”).

5. Read 1 John 4:18 and discuss. What does it mean, “there is no fear in love?” What kind of fear is John talking about here?

6. Read Heb. 12:28-29 and 1 Pet. 1:14-17 and contrast that fear (i.e. reverence) with the fear in Rom. 8:14-15 and 1 John 4:17-18.³

7. Read Romans 8:1-4 and discuss. How and why is “perfect love” able to “cast out fear?” Pastor Patrick said that Christ's love is perfect and ours is perfecting. What did he mean by that?

8. Read Php. 1:6. Understanding that our love is being perfected, what hope is there in this passage for the Christian?

9. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

¹The reciprocal abiding of us in love (thereby abiding in God for God is love) and God in us.

²In reference to being perfected (i.e. completed or sharpened) in love. (1) “Knowing and believing the love the Father has for us, (2) demonstrated in and through His Son, Jesus, (3) by His Spirit, compelling us to love one another, (4) which in turn shows us more of God's love for us... And around and around we go, being perfected in love.

³One is the terror of a slave and the other is the reverence of a son.