

Passage: 1 John 3:1-24

Title: The Manner (Other World) Love of God

Summary: In our passage we will see God's Love, that is outside this world, and hence why the world does not understand you. As we study, we will see this love that is outside this world should affect the way we live in this world, and how we love one another.

Reminder

Just a reminder, that "Perfect Love", has written this letter to you, and is speaking to you today.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ , for God is love.

Introduction

Writings – Pastored Ephesus / Around 90AD

John wrote this epistle, as all early church writings agree upon. Early Church writings also say that John served as pastor of the church in Ephesus, which was founded by Paul (Acts 18-19). The writing of this epistle is dated somewhere around 90-100AD. John himself is close to 80 to 90 years old.

Situation

John tells us four reasons why he writes, and the ultimate reason he writes this letter, so that you may have fullness of joy (1:4).

You will never have fullness of joy, if you are insecure in your salvation, you will never have joy, if you are secure in your sin and unrepentant of it, you will never have fullness of joy if you are insecure in the finished work that Christ has done for you.

Theme:

That Your Joy may be Full:

*(1 John 1:4 NKJV) And **these things we write to you** that your joy may be full.*

That You may not Sin / When you Do Sin

*(1 John 2:1 NKJV) My little children, **these things I write to you**, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

That You may not be Deceived

*(1 John 2:26 NKJV) **These things I have written to you** concerning those who try to deceive you.*

That You may know you have Eternal Life

*(1 John 5:13 NKJV) **These things I have written to you** who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

John Transitions / Light - Love

John now transitions into a new section here in this epistle. Chapters 1 and 2 we looked at God is Light, and now move into a focus on God is Love. These 3 things, Light, Love, and Life are interwoven throughout all 5 chapters, as John builds theme upon theme. This epistle is masterfully and wonderfully written.

Outline: The Manner (Other World) Love of God (1 John 3:1-24)

- The Manner of Love of the Father to Us (1 John 3:1-2)
- The Manner of Love of Us to the Father (1 John 3:3-10)
- The Manner of Love of Us to Each Other (1 John 3:11-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)

- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Manner of Love of the Father to Us (1 John 3:1-2)

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Come Discover

“*Behold*” is plural here, literally, “behold ye.” The usual form is singular. John is calling upon all the saints to wonder at the particular kind of love God has bestowed upon them. Behold - means to consider this!

The word also means, “to discover”. Not just once, at salvation, but continually, daily, we receive the invitation to “discover”, search out, find and experience God’s love. Beloved, come and discover, enter into the invitation of intimacy with God, His love, His heart for you.

From Foreign Country

“*What manner of*” is ποταπῆν (ποταπην), “from what country, race or tribe?” The word speaks of something foreign. The translation could read, “Behold, what foreign kind of love the Father has bestowed upon us.” The love of God is foreign to the human race. It is not found naturally in humanity. When it exists there, it is in a saved individual, and by reason of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Smith suggests, “from what far realm? What unearthly love, ... how other-worldly.”

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We be Like Him / Love that – he is Beautiful / I Desire to Be

We are going to be like Jesus Christ when He appears. I love that because I love the Lord, I love Him for He is so beautiful, all that He is, is what I desire to be, and will be.

Twinkle of an Eye / 1/55th of Second - Changed

In a twinkle of an eye, the medical world says that 1/55th of a second is a blink of an eye; we will be changed that quickly:

(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

(1 Corinthians 15:54 NKJV) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

(1 Corinthians 15:55 NKJV) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Twinkle of an Eye / Changed – Before the Throne / Without

In a twinkling of an eye we shall be changed, and we will be in His presence with an innumerable company of angels and saints of the first born, and we will be around His throne:

- Without sin, Without sorrow, Without suffering, Without divorce, Without cancer, Without tears, Without death, Without the curse.

Don't Wait to Be Like Him

I don't want to wait to be like Him, nor do I have to wait to become more like Him

The Manner of Love of Us to the Father (1 John 3:3-10)

Reflected Walk / Impossible not to Change

We have seen this theme throughout this epistle, and that is if the Love of the Lord is in you, then the Love of the Lord will come out of you in all that you do, it will be reflected in your walk. It is my personal belief, that it is impossible for the Creator of the Universe, The Awesome and Powerful God, to take up residence within a person, and that person not to change.

Jesus Summed Up Love

Jesus said it will be reflected in two ways, and the Apostle John continually presents the same here in this epistle, love God, and love your brother (including your neighbor):

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment."

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in (epi) Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Context Chapter 2 – When He Appears

Remember this is in the context of what we studied in chapter 2, when He appears:

(1 John 2:28 NKJV) And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Expecting – Produces Purifying Effect / Nothing More Powerful / We Speak it Often

Expecting His soon return, continuing to abide in Him, will produce a purifying effect in our lives. There is no more powerful effect for living in purity than the Lord's coming is at hand. If you study with us long enough you will notice how often we speak of the Last Days, of His soon Return, because we believe it, and we want to keep it in the forefront of our minds so that we may live our days for the Lord. We will have an urgency about sharing the gospel, we will have a light touch on the things of this world, and we will keep ourselves pure before our Lord.

Scriptures say Imminent / No Predecessors – Israel – Knowledge – Earthquakes

The Scriptures are clear that the rapture (God calling us Home) is imminent; there is nothing that needs to happen for the rapture to happen. All the things we are witnessing in our generation is just extra bonuses that we are so-so near. Israel re-gathered as a nation again (Ezekiel 36-37), the increase in knowledge (Daniel 12:4), the revived Roman Empire (Daniel 7, Revelation), the increase in wars, earthquakes, and famines (Matthew 24), they are all just indicators of how close we are, but they are not predecessors.

If Believe – Reflect Your Manner of Love / Earth Passing Away

If you really believe that, then it will be reflected in the manner that you live. Christian the earth is passing away; therefore we should not be investing in the things that are going to be left behind. It is ok to have stuff, just remember when the rapture happens someone else gets to move into your house and drive your car.

(1 John 2:17 NKJV) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Why we Study Prophecy

We study our prophecy ever month, so we continually live in the imminent, expectation, of His soon return, and thus one of the fruits of us doing that is the continual expectancy to see Him, and thus be a Bride adorned in white awaiting the Groom:

- **Peace – Comfort one another that Jesus is Coming for His Bride.**
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- (Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."
- **Priority – What is really important based on all these things?**

- Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- **Purity – How then should we live based on these things.**
- 1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV) ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- **Proof – That this Bible is Inspired.**
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **Preach – Tell the world the Good News – They need to hear it!**
- John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Spirit - Much Confusion – People then Miss Out / Need to Understand the 3 Relationships

Now, there is so much confusion today about the baptism in the Spirit. People get hung up and miss out because they don't understand there are three relationships Jesus talked about that a person can and should have with the Holy Spirit (also called Holy Ghost – which I don't care for that translation personally). When we talked of the Holy Spirit, there's three prepositions that we always discuss when we do to give the broad picture of the work of the Holy Spirit here on earth, and may we never forget the Holy Spirit. He is God, the third person of the Trinity, which is Augustine would say, trying to explain and grasp and comprehend. The trinity is like trying to pour the Atlantic Ocean into a bucket and that's well said because God is huge and he's overflowing and that's a good thing that we can put him into a bucket or a box that our God is so big that he can meet every need and overcome every obstacle in our life and he'll do that for you today.

1.) With Us “para” / John 14:17 / God will use Vessels like John Baptist /

He is with us (the Greek preposition “para” which means alongside of). The Holy Spirit comes alongside of a person and God's Spirit moves across the earth witnessing to a person their need for a Savior for their sin separates them from the Holy God (John 14:17).

John 14:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you (para) and will be in (en) you.

Romans 3:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

John 1:12-13 (NKJV) ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

2.) In – En / Comes in and Dwells / We can Cry Out – Abba Father

After coming alongside of us, The Holy Spirit then comes in us the moment we open our heart to the Savior (John 20:22), after hearing the message proclaimed through a vessel chosen by God, or just God speaking to us in His own way; The Greek preposition for in, is “en”. When you opened your heart to Jesus, the Holy Spirit came into you. He indwelt you. You were born again. You were regenerated. The baptism of John spoken of by Christ is the washing away and forgiveness of sin. It is then because the sin and separation has been dealt with, that God takes us residence, the indwelling, it is then we can cry out Abba Father! And the Holy Spirit begins to teach and lead a person in the way to walk.

John 20:21-22 (NKJV) ²¹So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

John 16:13 (NKJV) ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

We May Choose to Sin – But are not Powerless to Sin

As believers, we may choose to sin; we may decide to sin; but we never have to sin because the power of Christ resides in us. And He who told us to go our way and sin no more, to be holy for He is holy, also gives us the power to carry out His commands.

3.) Comes Upon – Heppi / Comes to Empower Us for Service

Then there is the third, as Jesus said John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit when He comes upon you (the Greek preposition is “heppi”) when He empowers us for service (Acts 1:5). The Spirit of God is available not only to work with you to become a Christian, or to come into your life once you open your heart to Him, but He is now available to come upon your life and to empower you to see your own world turned upside down and made right-side up. In the Old Testament, when the Holy Ghost came upon men like Moses and David, Gideon and Ezekiel, Samson and Bezaleel, it was to empower them for service. So, too, Jesus said to His disciples, “The Spirit is in you, but when the Spirit comes upon you, you will be empowered for unique ministry and service, and then you will be My witnesses” (see Acts 1:4–8).

(Acts 1:5 NKJV) "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

(Acts 1:8 NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon (heppi) you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Purity is Pure Power in Evangelism

The hope here is the Christian hope of some day being like the Lord Jesus in respect to His glorified body. “In” is epi (ἐπι), literally, “upon.” The idea is, “hope resting upon Him,” or “hope set on Him.”

Same word for “upon – epi” used here, for “in” Him. As we become like Him. Do you see the amazing correlation is the amazing witness, it is empowerment of “the witness”, of a life of purity before a lost world. Purity brings a spirituality, because it is so outside this world, so much so that your life becomes a witness, for people say there is something about this person I cannot deny, and thus the power of that witness.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in (epi) Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Purity Preaches! Purity Preaches Powerfully!

(1 John 3:4 NKJV) Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Spurgeon / Commits – Present Perfect Tense / Habitual Lifestyle

Charles Spurgeon known as the “prince of preachers” who preached in the 1800’s said, there is a sermon in “tenses”, regarding to the verb tense of words in the Scripture, and this chapter is sure one of those places, for the word for “commit” here is in the present perfect tense, so what it is saying is those who live in a continual habitual lifestyle of sin.

Definition of Sin - Lawlessness

Lawlessness is breaking God’s holy law, and sinning is lawlessness, therefore sinning is breaking God’s Holy Law.

Deception False Teachers

Mind you false teachers are coming to teach false doctrine, and one such false doctrine was that what you believe and what you lived, did not have to connect in the line themselves. Basically they were saying as long as you believe Jesus died for your sins that’s enough for eternal salvation and you can live anywhere you want because that’s what you believe not how you behave.

Well verse 3 totally has blew that false doctrine up and so do the next several verses.

If our roots aren’t going down into good soil then there will be no fruit because the roots to determine the fruits

I love John and I don't think it's because he's the aged apostle but he has literally no care that his words would upset somebody and make them oh leave the church John gives them truth because the goal of that truth is what that it might set people free

How serious is sin sin brings death how serious is sin someone has to die for it and how serious is sin look to a cross where God he gave his only begotten son as the propitiation to trade places for wrath that was due

(1 John 3:5 NKJV) And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Take Away

“Take away” is airō (αἶρω), to lift up and carry away.” Smith comments: “atone for sins of the past and prevent sins of the future. Airō (Αἶρω), properly ‘to lift up and carry away’ (compare Mark 6:29; John 2:16), but the idea of expiation is involved since it is ‘the Lamb of God’ that ‘taketh away the sins.’ ”

See the Gospel

Here we see the gospel story before us; why did God leave the throne and come down to take on flesh and walk among man:

- To take away our sins (1 John 3:5)
- That He might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)

To take away our sins / Paid the Price / Propitiation

He came to pay the price, to take our place, to become the Lamb of God who would take on the full wrath of God's judgment (propitiation) against sin before the Holy God:

(John 1:29 NKJV) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

(1 John 2:1 NKJV) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

(1 John 2:2 NKJV) And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

(1 John 3:6 NKJV) Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

Abides (Continues)

The words “abideth” and “sinneth” are used here to designate a certain class of individual. Character is shown by one’s habitual actions, not the extraordinary ones. The tense of the verbs is present, the kind of action, continuous, habitual. Thus, “every one who habitually is abiding in Him,” is a saved person, and, “every one who habitually is sinning,” an unsaved person. A Christian as a habit of life is abiding in fellowship with the Lord Jesus. Sin may at times enter his life. But sin is the exception, not the rule. The unsaved person as a habit of life sins continually.

“Sinneth” is present in tense, continuous action being indicated. The person who is abiding in Christ is not habitually sinning. The child of God as a habit of life, does righteousness, and sin is not a habit with him. John is not teaching sinless perfection here. Vincent says: “John does not teach that believers do not sin, but is speaking of a character, a habit.

(1 John 3:7 NKJV) Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

Deceive You

Mind you false teachers are coming to teach false doctrine, and one such false doctrine was that what you believe and what you lived, did not have to connect in the line themselves. Basically they were saying as long as you believe Jesus died for your sins that’s enough for eternal salvation and you can live anywhere you want because that’s what you believe not how you behave.

Righteous Character Expresses Righteous Conduct

The apostle cuts away vain pretences by a sharp principle: a righteous character expresses itself in righteous conduct

(1 John 3:8 NKJV) He who sins (poieo) is of (ek) the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Habitual Sin Works of Devil / Be Honest

Committeth sin" is poieō (ποιεω), in a present tense participle, "He who is continually doing sin." Smith suggests, "He that makes sin his business or practice."

Ablative - Source

"Of" is ek (ἐκ), "out of," used with the ablative case, gives us the ablative of source. He who continually does sin is out of the devil as a source

Habitual sin is of the devil, and we need to be honest with ourselves, we are doing the works of the devil.

Devil from Beginning

That is, his sinful propensities, issuing from his totally depraved nature inherited from Adam, find their ultimate source in the devil who brought about the downfall of our first parents. Habitual actions again are an index of character, and here, of source. "Sinneth" is a present of duration which speaks of that which has begun in the past and continues into the present. The translation could read, "The devil has been sinning from the beginning." Vincent says: "He sinned in the beginning, and has never ceased to sin from the beginning, and still sins." Smith identifies the words "the beginning" as "the beginning of his diabolic career."

Destroy – Desolve / Undid the Bonds of Sins

That He might destroy the works of the devil - "Destroy" is in the Greek text luō (λυω), "to loosen, dissolve."

"The works of the devil are represented as having a certain consistency and coherence. They show a kind of solid front. But Christ, by His coming, has revealed them in their complete unsubstantiality. He has 'undone' the seeming bonds by which they were held together." But He has done more than that. By the blood of His Cross He has paid for sin, made a way of escape from the arch enemy of men's souls, defeated the purposes of the devil, and will finally bring about his complete downfall.

Translation. The one who is habitually doing sin is out of the devil as a source, because from the beginning the devil has been sinning. For this purpose there was manifested the Son of God, in order that He might bring to naught the works of the devil.

See the Gospel

Here we see the gospel story before us; why did God leave the throne and come down to take on flesh and walk among man:

- To take away our sins (1 John 3:5)
- That He might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)

Gospel / If You Were to Die Tonight

Personal

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Problem

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Penalty

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Provision

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Profession

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Recognize

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Repent

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Receive

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(1 John 3:9 NKJV) Whoever has been born (gennao) of God does (poieo) not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Born (Completed Act) /

"Is born" is a perfect participle in the Greek text, speaking of the past completed act of regeneration, namely, the impartation of the divine nature (II Pet. 1:4) or divine life, and the present result, the fact that the person who has been made the recipient of divine life is by nature, and that permanently, a spiritually alive individual.

"Commit" is poieō (ποιεω) in the present tense which always speaks of continuous action unless the context limits it to punctiliar action, namely, the mere mention of the fact of the action, without the mentioning of details. The translation reads, "Every one who has been born out of God, with the present result that he is a born-one (of God), does not habitually do sin." Wuest)

Seed Planted / God Himself – the Word

Whoever is born again, a seed is planted in them, that seed is God Himself. As we have studied God takes residence within us, and as we take in His Word, He moves through us, thus the vital need to be sowing the Word in our lives:

(John 1:12 NKJV) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

(John 1:13 NKJV) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(John 1:14 NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Matthew 13:23 NKJV) "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

(1 Peter 1:23 NKJV) having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

As stated in Genesis, the seed produces fruit of the same kind. We produce the fruit of the kind of seed we have now planted in us. We are simply God's Garden again that He plants a garden in.

Genesis 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

The Seed / Pushes out Appetite of Flesh / Branches Spring Forth

As the seed remains in us, as the seed takes deep root and grows, it pushes out the desires of the flesh and we lose the appetite for the things of the flesh. As the seed goes deep, the branches spring forth producing fruit, the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace.....

(1 John 3:10 NKJV) In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

2 Camps / Righteousness – Brotherly Love

This verse divides people into 2 camps, with no middle ground, either of God, or the devil, that's what He says and there is no further interpretation needed. Now which camp is identified by righteousness and brotherly love. Those who do not practice righteousness, which is in the context of continual habitual sin, are not of God, and those who do not love their brother are not of God, not in His camp.

Be Careful Who Fellowship With / Not what Say – but Practice

Christian be careful who you choose fellowship with. Just because they say they are Christians, or born again, doesn't mean that they are. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not if God. When a person plays a sport, or an instrument, they practice, and practice, to get it right. Anyone who is not practicing righteousness, is not in the camp of God. Be careful who you hang out with, especially I say that to you youth and young adults.

Move to Brotherly Love

So now we move into a passage on brotherly love, and he uses the picture of Cain and Abel.

The Manner of Love of Us to Each Other (1 John 3:11-24)

(1 John 3:11 NKJV) For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

The Manner of Love

Again, here is the message from the beginning:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

(1 John 3:12 NKJV) not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

Their Offerings / Abel's by Faith

Cain and Abel both brought offerings before the Lord, Abel's was accepted, Cain's was rejected. Cain did not offer his sacrifice in faith:

(Hebrews 11:4 NKJV) By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

The Garden – the Lamb

Apparently, all the way back in the garden it demonstrated that it would be the lamb, and the lamb only that would be acceptable to God:

(Genesis 3:21 NKJV) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Cain Works Flesh / Religare – Re-link / Only the Lamb

Cain brought the works of his flesh before God, his own idea of what would be acceptable to God. The word Religion in the Latin is "*religare*", re-ligare. The re – is "re", and the ligare means to link, bind, fasten, tie. It means to relink. To re-link and it was through the Lamb that man could be reunited, re-link with God, the sacrificial lamb was a foreshadow of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ all the way through the Scriptures.

Cain's Re-link / All False Religions flow from Cain / My Way – My Works

But Cain tried to re-link to God that broken fellowship through his own way. All the world's religion flows from Cain, man saying I'll will be linked to God by my way. The world hates the teaching that there is one way, and one way only, through the Lamb. They do not like that because that means they will have to

change, they will have to say I am wrong, it will mean that they are not in control, they are not on the throne.

Cain Slew Brother – Envious of his Works / We can Kill – Cut – Attack our Brother /

Cain slew his brother because he was jealous of his brothers works. We can see the application for our own life, even though we may not actually murder our brother, we can be guilty and susceptible of cutting and attacking our brother who we are envious and jealous of.

Person Threatened – Challenged / Cut them – Character Assignment

When a person feels threatened or challenged by a brother, they may try to cut them, or kill them with character assassination. They cut them down, so that they may raise themselves up.

Slaughter

Interestingly the word here for murder is the word “slaughter”, and it is the word that was used for the sacrificing of the animals at the altar. See, Cain didn’t know how to kill, except by watching the sacrifices performed by his father Adam, and his brother Able. Sadly, he couldn’t kill an animal sacrifice, but he could kill his brother. There is a sermon in that thought.

Here is what we see in this correlation John gives us between Cain and Abel, and that is that one of the definitions of hatred of a brother is the “destruction” of the character, the destruction of the “righteous” witness the person is. Cain destroyed Abel, because Abel’s righteousness exposed Cains sin, his evil and unrighteous heart. So rather than repenting and turning to the Lord to please Him, Cain turns against his brother and destroys him.

Consider his actions, how many righteous offspring’s would have been birthed through this righteous man, but quenches a family line, and all the potential that would have come. Same holds true when Christians do the same today, in the family, and in the church.

When I hear – How Small – how Carnal

When I hear and see someone doing that, it is that person that drops a notch in my eyes. I see them as spiritually immature, carnally minded and motivated. Christian, here is my point, if you do these things, any mature Christian is going to see right through you. When I see it I say to myself, how small of you, are you that threatened by that person, that challenged by them that you must do that. I feel embarrassed for them. I feel the same about those who listen to them as well, how small.

(1 John 3:13 NKJV) Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

(1 John 3:14 NKJV) We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

(1 John 3:15 NKJV) Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Is Love in Your Heart / By this They will Know

Is love in your heart? Jesus said that is how people will know that we are His:

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

Labeled a Murderer / You are Killing Them

You are labeled as a murderer because you are killing them with your cutting remarks.

They become that Person

As we have said, when a person gossips about another person, and people buy into and listen to the gossip, that person they are gossiping becomes that person, whether it is true or not. When they say hey have you heard about Joe, he did this, or I heard he use to do this. So when you see Joe those thoughts run across your mind and you can't help to think and wonder. That is robbery, a person is being robbed of sweat fellowship with Joe because it has now been tainted by the cutting remarks. Conversely, the good side, if you continually build a brother or sister up, then when people come before them, they will be looked upon in a wonderful light.

Power of the Tongue

The power of life and death is in the tongue:

(Proverbs 18:21 NKJV) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Church Dying / People Avoid Church / Members Dying / Desensitized

People's tongues are killing the church today, as it has down through the years. Not just because people of the world say who needs that, but also, more for our application is that the people who cut and listen to the cutting grow weak. There can be so much cutting and slashing of people in the church that those who participate become so desensitized to what they are doing, they don't even realize it anymore, and they continue on and on never realizing that they are bleeding themselves to death also. Beloved, I encourage you to get alone with the Lord right now and ask Him if you have become these very things.

John is probably writing this letter to the Church of Ephesus (most historians believe), and it is most likely after he wrote the Book of Revelation (under inspiration of Holy Spirit), and it is the church know for leaving their first love. Destruction and division in the church would sure lead that church and any church to the loss of love.

Revelation 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

(1 John 3:16 NKJV) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Only for Reconciliation – Death / Quit Proving your Point / You'll be Free

The only way for unity, for reconciliation, is that someone dies. We could never have been reconciled to God had not someone died, and it had to be Jesus Christ because only He has the power over sin and death. He willingly laid down His life so that we may be reconciled unto God. As for us, any person you are at odds with right now in your life, the only way for reconciliation between them is if someone dies. Quit trying to prove your point, lay it down, let it go, die to yourself and for that relationship. Well happens if I do and they still won't reconcile, don't you worry about that, you die and let God do what only He can, bring resurrection after death. You will at least be right with God, and you will be free to enjoy your relationship with the Lord without the root of bitterness choking out your heart.

(1 John 3:17 NKJV) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Seed in us – Naturally See the Need / Best Sermon

When the seed of God is in us, we will naturally see the needs of people around us, and we will be moved to compassion to meet the needs of those who are hurting. It will also be the best sermon you will ever preach. It is a whole lot easier than trying to explain theological truths, they will see and know love by your actions. All theology and doctrine all lead to one thing, Love, for God is Love.

Live Less – so they can Live More

God asks us if we are willing to live a little less, so others can live a little more.

(1 John 3:18 NKJV) My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Missionary Story

True story, and amazing story, many years ago when missionaries were just starting to use airplanes to make it to remote areas, rather than boats. Well a man was heading to a south sea island when his plane experienced trouble and crashed somewhere in the region. He crashed off another island, no SOS signal went out, no radio communication, just right into the waters and no one ever knew where he was or what had happened to him for he never made it to his planned destination. He was rescued by the islanders, and nursed back to health, the several months that he laid in a coma. When he came out of the coma he had full use of his body except, he had lost his speech. So this missionary was on this island for 12 years, unable to speak a word for all those 12 years. Well 12 years later other missionaries came to this island, and in their first message about Jesus Christ they told the islanders they had met about the love

and compassion of Jesus Christ. They spoke of His mercy and grace, and all of His goodness, and how someday they could see Him and be in His presence. One of the islanders interrupted him and said, this man you speak of, come with us and we will introduce you to him, speaking of the missionary who had been with them for 12 years. Not able to speak for 12 years he showed them the reality of Christ in deed and truth, so much so that when they finally heard of His name, they thought it to be him.

(1 John 3:19 NKJV) And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

(1 John 3:20 NKJV) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

When Hearts Condemn – God Greater / He Knows All Things – We Bound to Fail

When our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts. He knows all things. He knows we are made of dust, that we make promises we can't keep, and that we are bound to fall and fail. Yet He also knows that we are His and that He has a glorious plan for our lives.

Apostle Says Rest – God Greater than our Hearts

What is the apostle telling us? Rest in what God knows about us, that if our heart condemns us, we can take rest in that God does not for He is greater than our hearts.

Knows Best – Loves us the Most

The One who knows us best loves us most.

He Doesn't Condemn – We Never make it to Love / Frees us Condemnation – So we Free to Love

God does not condemn us, for if He did we could never make it to love. He frees us from condemnation by showing us love, His love, love that is in deed and truth, and we respond to that love, with love; it is a wonderful dynamic, love produces love, and condemnation therefore produces condemnation. I will never condemn you He says to us today, so that you may experience and enjoy my love, and reproduce this same love in your own life that will likewise overflow unto others. And when you are loving, you will have confidence in Me, your prayers will be effective for your prayers will be in harmony with Me because we are in harmony with each other. This type of love and thinking is truly foreign to us, it is not the way of this world, for it is not of this world, it is from another origin, the throne of God; the One who never condemns us, and is greater than our hearts

(1 John 3:21 NKJV) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

John Knows our Struggle / Our Hearts Condemn Us / Others Do – Our Past

A beautiful passage for all of us. John is saying I know how you feel, those times of doubt, how often we fail, how at times we will live a life contrary to the Word, a life of sex, hatred, drugs, and selfishness. Our very hearts will condemn us, it will cause us to doubt, our hearts will condemn us. Not only will our hearts condemn us, but so will others, they will bring up all our failings, they will bring up our past.

God Greater / He Knows Our Next Sin – He Died for It / Designed to Draw us Closer - Commit

But God is greater than our hearts, and our minds, for He chooses to forget. God knows all about us, more than we do, He knows our next sin.....and He died for it. God accepted us just the way we were, and are currently, and that is good news. That good news is designed to make me want to commit to the things of the Lord, and want to do His will.

(1 John 3:22 NKJV) And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Sounds like the Law Again

It almost sounds like the law again, if we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight, sounds burdensome, but verse 23 gives us the commands to follow:

(1 John 3:23 NKJV) And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

(1 John 3:24 NKJV) Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Jesus Summed it Up

Simply believe, love on the Lord Jesus, and love our brother. Jesus said the same, he makes it quite simple:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

He gives us the Helper

In this He does not leave us alone, for He gives us His Spirit, the Helper, so that we may love:

(John 16:7 NKJV) "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

All we do is Abide

All we have to do to abide, abide means:

meno, men'-o; a prim. verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):--abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for). Just continue with Him, continue on in this walk and He, through the power of His Spirit will take you from little children, to young adults, to mature believers.

Outline: The Manner (Other World) Love of God (1 John 3:1-24)

- The Manner of Love of the Father to Us (1 John 3:1-2)
- The Manner of Love of Us to the Father (1 John 3:3-10)
- The Manner of Love of Us to Each Other (1 John 3:11-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need