

I John 4 – 14 September 2025

“Using God’s Love”

Introduction

*Chap 3 got into the heart of John letter which is proofs that we’ve been born again

*Are you becoming like Jesus?

*Are you not able to tolerate habitual sin?

*Have you experienced hatred by the world?

*Are you giving out love extravagantly?

*Well, chap 4 now expands on that final point of love

Now, we see 3 actions of a heart that’s experiencing the true love of God since being born again

#1 – We prove teachers before we follow them (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. Just b/c a person presents as a prophet or as speaking for God, that’s not enough info

- a. From chap 2 we've seen that there are those religious people that speak by the Spirit of God & those that speak by the spirit of Anti-Christ
2. Every true prophet or Christian leader will speak in agreement w/ God's Word (ie I Pet 1:20)

Read Vs 2-3

1. So what are the characteristics of the spirit of Anti-Christ?
 - a. They were w/ Christians yet left (2:18-19)
 - b. They deny Jesus is God & Christ (2:22)
 - c. They deny God came in the flesh (4:3)
 - d. They can do miracles (Matt 24:24)
2. Identity of Jesus is central to a teacher's claims
3. The devil doesn't care if you love, worship or talk about Jesus, as long as he's a false Jesus

Read Vs 4

1. Read John 16:33 – How do we conquer the lie of the world, b/c we have the mind of Christ

- a. Read I Cor 2:15-16 – The spiritual ones equipped w/ God’s Spirit can discern truth & lies & we must
2. Christians can sleep at night knowing...
 - a. No weapon formed against us shall prosper (Isa 54:17)
 - b. We conquer not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord (Zec 4:6)

Read Vs 5-6

1. The world hears & believes their own & the church hears & believes the Spirit of the Lord
2. Jesus said, “out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks”
 - a. Have you been born again w/ a new heart?

#2 – We project God’s love onto others (Vs 7-14)

Read Vs 7-8

1. We can’t give what we haven’t first received from God

- a. Did you notice the 1st word of the verse (beloved)
2. If you're w/o the ability to give sacrificially, you do not know God by being born again
3. Satan can counterfeit peace (John 14:27), miracles (Deut 13) & more but can't counterfeit love
 - a. Since he can't counterfeit love, he's left to try changing the definition of love
 - b. God's agape love: when you'll do anything to give help & service at your own sacrifice & in accordance with what God says is truly right

Read Vs 9-11

1. We're the responders and God is the initiator
 - a. It's not great love on our part that we love God (He deserves it)
 - b. What is amazing love is that He came to die for sinners like us that we in rebellion to Him
2. If someone is questioning God's love for them, just ask them to look at the cross

Read Vs 12

1. Jesus said, 'God is spirit & those that worship God must do it in spirit & in truth' (John 4:24)
 - a. Moses got close seeing God's afterglow
2. Connecting this verse with the chapter we realize that we get to show the world the Father by our expressions of love

Read Vs 13-14

1. What a beautiful pic of our Trinitarian God
 - a. We believe by the Spirit of God, that the Father sent the Son to be our Savior
2. Those that believe this have made a home within Him
 - a. And He's made His home within us
 - b. Read Rev 3:20 – There is mutual exchange

#3 – We're perfecting our love for God & others (Vs 15-21)

Read Vs 15-16

1. We've experienced & believe that God is love
2. Primary fruit of the Spirit is love...God's love

Read Vs 17-18

1. Jesus is our example of love & being loving
 - a. He often looked on the people w/ compassion
2. Now when we accept God's love for us, as shown on the cross, that we cast out our fear of eternal death
 - a. If we still fear death, we haven't let God's love for us become mature within us yet
3. For those of you that have accepted Christ's love on the cross, has it removed your fear of death, it should

Read Vs 19

1. So important to not think this is reversed
 - a. We're the responders, God is the initiator
2. Wrong way to think of it...
 - a. We pray so that God will...
 - b. We give so that God will...
3. Right way to think of it...
 - a. We pray b/c He first spoke to our heart
 - b. We give b/c He first gave His Son

Read Vs 20-21

1. To say "I love God" but you can't stay in good fellowship with His church, doesn't make sense
 - a. This is someone that is acting in the flesh
2. You want to truly keep God's commandments?
 - a. Find the needs of others & meet them
 - b. We wake up in the morning considering what we need, try waking up desiring to serve another

Conclusion

If we have been born of God & we're walking in the Spirit of God, then we're experiencing the love of God

Now here's how we use it...

- 1. We prove teachers before we follow them**
 - a. B/c we love others & want to protect them from false teaching
- 2. We project God's love onto other**
 - a. B/c we want them to experience the same great love of God them we're experiencing
- 3. And we're perfecting our love for God & others**
 - a. We're not content with a little piece of God's Kingdom, we want to experience ALL of it