

I. Intro

A. Text: **1 Jn. 4:7-11**

B. Recap: God is Light

1. John is speaking in Hyperbole
 - a. Figure of speech that makes a broader point.
 - b. John is also speaking in absolutes.
2. God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.
3. We walk in the light or we walk in darkness. **(v.6)**
 - a. No intermediate position in Him.
4. How do you have fellowship with Him? How do you walk in the light?
 - a. You must be born again.
 - i. God is light.

¹² *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn. 8:12)*

- ii. We are naturally children of darkness, so we walk in darkness (naturally).

⁸ *For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. (Eph. 5:8)*

C. Children of Light Walk in Love

⁹ *Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.*

¹⁰ *Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. (1 Jn. 2:9-10)*

1. Clear connection between walking in light and walking in love.
2. If you claim that you are born again... there's subsequent fruit that God produces in you.

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3. If you claim that you are in the light and hate your brother, you lie.
 4. There ought to be some resemblance of your father.
 - a. Ultimately, we shall have his character (his heart).

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn. 3:2)

- b. We shall be like Him.

D. God is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 Jn. 4:7-8)

1. Love is His very nature.
 - a. It's who He is.
 - b. It's what He feels (in His emotions).
 - i. God delights in us.
 - c. It's what He does.

II. Body

A. Love is Tangible and Observable

1. God chose to put love on display.

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 Jn. 4:7-11)

- a. The call of God is not only to imitate the love of God.
 - b. Called to accept the love of God.
 - c. No way to imitate the love of God outside of being supplied by the source.

B. Love is Costly and Sacrificial

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (1 Jn. 3:16)

1. God's love is selfless and sacrificial in nature.
 - a. Gives without the guarantee of reciprocal return.
 - b. He laid His life down for us (**3:16a**)
2. If you belong to God (born again), He produces evidence/ fruit to support this reality.
 - a. Tangible, observable love.
 - b. Selfless and sacrificial love inside of you. (**3:16a**)
 - c. Begin to lay down our lives for others.
3. Laying down of one's life, is foreign to our current culture.
 - a. Counter-cultural.
 - b. We (Disciples) have been called to esteem others better than ourselves. (**Phil. 2:3**)
 - i. Called to deny ourselves. (**Matt. 16:24**)

C. Love is Necessary and Non-Negotiable

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 Jn. 3:16-18)

1. If you're born again (children of God), we don't just talk love... we do love.
 - a. Deeds!
2. LOVE DEEDS ought to cost you something.
 - a. If Christ laid down His life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.
 - b. Lay down our comforts/conveniences for the brothers.
3. How can you receive the unearned, unmerited grace of God, yet not extend that grace to your brother?
4. Implication: You can't... claim to love God, but close your heart up against your brother (who is in desperate need)?

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1 Jn. 4:19-21)

- a. If anyone claims to love the invisible God, yet hate his very visible neighbor, he is a liar.

III. Conclusion: Love Produces Confidence toward God

A. Read: **1 John 4:11-18**

1. By this we know that we abide in Him: He has given us of His Spirit. **(4:13b)**
2. Love has been perfected (accomplished, completed) in us **(4:17)**
3. We have boldness to stand before God (on that day).
 - a. As Jesus is before the Father, so are we in this world.
4. Love casts out fear.
 - a. Love that has been matured, completed, accomplished in us casts out fear.
 - i. Love provides eternal perspective and confidence toward that day.