

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.

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.