

# 1 John 4:17-21

## "Trust God"

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intro: - learning to trust in the marriage relationship-

thesis: Trust is essential in any meaningful relationship including relationship with God. Growth in assurance of love = growth in trust

**subject: God's perfect love**

**object: Trust in God and grow in love**

### **I. The results of God's perfect love (v.17-18)**

*Love, having been perfected among us in this...*

• context: God's love perfectly demonstrated on the Cross

- "perfected"= *telios* ="made complete"-
- process by which God invites His followers to grow in experience of His perfect love
- And so, what exactly is this process accomplishing in us?

### **A. God's love brings confidence in judgment (v.17)**

*...that we may have boldness on the day of judgment*

- "boldness" in v.17 can also be translated "confidence"
- Christians can be confident before the judgement seat of God
- Context of God's judgment (Matt 25; Heb 9:27)
- As a Christian, you have confidence in where you stand with God

*because as He is, so are we in this world*

- Jesus- perfectly righteous & gives righteousness to His followers
- **Romans 3:22- This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**
- This righteousness sets you apart from the world like Jesus (John 17:16)
- Made as Jesus is- already judged righteous (even in this life)
- confidence and assurance no matter what life throws at you

### **B. God's love brings confidence over fear (v.18)**

*Read v.18*

- Fear a normative human emotion- fear even commanded in the Bible
- what type of fear is John talking about?
- Fear involving torment- translated as “punishment” in ESV
- In Bible- people’s initial response to God a fear of punishment (John, Isaiah, Moses)- realization of His holiness and their sinfulness
- Focus on example of Isaiah (mention personal devo through Isaiah)
- There is fear, but God graciously forgives & invites Isaiah to join in His work
- Fear of punishment- not invalid but God doesn’t want you to remain there
- grasp who you are in Christ/ completely forgiveness- nothing left to fear
- **"The worst evils of life are those which do not exist except in our imagination. If we had no troubles but real troubles, we should not have a tenth part of our present sorrows. We feel a thousand deaths in fearing one, but the Christian is cured of the disease of fearing." - Charles Spurgeon**
- What is causing you fear right now and how terrible does it actually seem in comparison to your eternal standing with God? (personal examples)

## **II. The response to God's perfect love (v.19-20)**

- Experiencing God's love should lead to a change in your life- God's love is a powerful force

- ex of my favorite beach spot being continually reshaped by storms
- summed up in two major categories by John;

### **A. Grow in love for God (v.19)**

*We love Him because He first loved us*

- working at CN- emphasis put on love for God in church's mission
- Don't just focus on the how of loving God but the why- He first loved us
- Encounter w/ transformational love of God- stirs us to love Him in return- think of your testimony
- wrestling thru this in youth ministry- running everything through this filter
- **How does God display His love and how does it cause you to love Him in return?**
- take some answers and use them to transition to last sub-point

### **B. Grow in love for people (v.20-21)**

*Read v.20*

- One of best/ greatest ways to show love for God- showing love to others
- v.20- Bold language ("liar"), but for a reason
- one who continually/ habitually hates lies (even to themselves) about experiencing God's love
- In other words- no room in your heart for hatred as a Christian

• *Read v.21*

- Hatred vs. anger/ frustration- won't always get it right- repentance is key
- You should be “growing” or increasing in your love for others
- Ex of me in middle school ministry
- Will vary depending on who you are (my struggle as an introvert)
- Starts w/ attitude of your heart- what is your attitude towards others? Are you reflecting the love Jesus has shown you?

conclusion: connect back to intro- Jesus wants to lead you into trust of Him right now!