



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: More love equals less fear; more fear equals less love.

1 John 4:16-17

John states it again, that God is love and they witnessed God's love for us through the Son. So those that "know and believe" in that love, abide in God and God in them. It is through this love that we are perfected (even in this world) and will be able to stand guilt free on Judgement day. Our righteousness is not our own but the imputed righteousness of Christ to our records, without this covering no one would be able to be found "not guilty" on judgement day. Conversely, because of this covering not only can we be pardoned but also have a personal relationship with our creator so much so that we may approach Him boldly and cry out "Abba Father"!

Hebrews 4:16 & Romans 8:15

- Do you understand what John is saying when he says we must abide in Love? What does it mean?
- Why does he equate this love with our salvation on judgement day?
- Why does he say that the love we show on this earth is important?
- Is learning to love like Christ meriting our salvation or is it proving it? Explain how.
- So because we have believed in Jesus for salvation we can boldly approach God with confidence so much so as to call Him "Abba Father", what does that literally mean?
- So it could be said that our love is perfected in Christ, and that should cast out our _____(see verse 17)?



Day 2

Sermon Sentence: More love equals less fear; more fear equals less love.

1 John 4:18 & Romans 8:1

The punishment has been paid, and those that have looked to Christ and believe that He has paid that price are in His love. That payment wasn't just for one sin, it was for all of them for all time to purchase the salvation of all that would believe in Him! Yes we still receive correction and we still need to strive to remove sin from our lives and live more and more like our Savior but we should not fear the punishment for He has promised to save us from the death and eternal punishment that our sins require. Relate this to our earthly parents or our own parenting. We wish to correct our children and restore them to a proper behavior but we don't wish to condemn them by those corrections, only help them and they should not live in fear of us if they trust that we have their best interests in mind.

- Do you fear God? How do you fear Him?
- What is it that scares you about God?
- How do you feel when you feel conviction from the Holy Spirit? Give an example of a recent time
- If God has taken care of the punishment for believers, why do we fear His correction?
- Does your spirit often readily come into agreement with the Holy Spirit when you feel conviction or do you resist and bring stronger correction?



Day 3

Sermon Sentence: More love equals less fear; more fear equals less love.

1 John 4:19

We learned a few weeks ago that there are different kinds of love.

Agape - supernatural love as in God's love.

Phileo - a casual or friendly type of love.

So if we read this with the proper perspective we understand that it is only because God has shown us "supernatural" or "agape" type love that we are then able to display this same type of love to the world. We know that there are people that are non believers that show kindness and love but it is a real eye opener to understand that this is always the superficial worldly "phileo" type of love because they don't know God and thus can not know "agape" or supernatural love.

- Do you understand that accepting this love is a supernatural change in your life?
- Do you see "phileo" type love often at your place of work, or other places?
- Compare this to the type of "agape" love that causes self sacrifice, can you see where this is completely supernatural in origin?
- What happens when a person is tested and they don't have "agape" type love? Who will they opt to take care of first?

We see more and more apostasy in this fallen world. More people, even Christians subscribe to a "live and let live" policy when it comes to the lives of people around them. Christians should always have a desire to bring the Gospel of Christ to the world and to help those find Christ that are lost.

- What kind of love are we showing when we turn our heads and don't try to help the lost claiming that they should be able to live their lives however they choose?
- Is it possible to be "agape" love and to not tell someone that they are sinning against God and are likely to perish if they don't repent and turn to Christ?



Day 4

Sermon Sentence: More love equals less fear; more fear equals less love.

1 John 4:20-21

Again, John makes it very clear that to hate is to not be in God's love. If we hate our brother or sister then God's love is not in us. We tend to hold people away, punishing them for the perceived wrongs that we have in our minds concerning them. God's love however dictates that we forgive these people. We often resist this because it makes us feel vulnerable and in some ways that is the self sacrifice found in agape love. We need to show love like He loved us, so that the world sees the love of Christ in us. If we have no love, we do not have God because God is love. If all we have is hate, then it does not matter what we claim to believe we do not have His Spirit within us.

- Do you find yourself resisting relationships with people, based on things you know about their lives?
- What about people that have wronged you and desire to reconcile, do you readily forgive and trust them in your lives again? What does the Bible say about reconciliation when someone is holding something against you?
- Harboring hate and anger towards your brother or sister was described as akin to what sin by Jesus?
- How do we love like Christ while on this Earth?
- How do you love the lost?
- How should you treat their sins that go against your Christian walk?
- What is it about hate that stops the work of the Holy Spirit?



Day 5

Sermon Sentence: More love equals less fear; more fear equals less love.

1 John 4:18 & Proverbs 9:10

Is this a contradiction? So how does wisdom start with fear of the Lord and yet perfect Love casts out all fear? We often come to the Lord because we fear the final outcome of our lives if we do not find some meaning to our lives. The fear of death, or condemnation are often at the root of these spiritual truth seeking journeys. So these two scriptures are not contradictions but in fact the beginning and the end of fear in our lives. Fear brings us to Christ and in the fullness of His love we cast aside that fear knowing that we are forever adopted into God's family and our eternal destinies are sealed in this unfailing love for us!

- Was it fear that brought you to the Lord originally?
- If so, what did you fear the most about life?
- Since becoming a Christian, do you still have fear?
- Once we have fully submitted to the will of the Lord in our lives why should we fear?
- Understanding that God has conquered all things even death, and He loves us, what is left to fear?

More on the depth of God's perfect love, read **Romans 8:31-39**.

- What's to fear except being without it?