

Abiding in Love results in Waling in Love

1 John 4:7-13

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Historical Context – The book of First John was written by the Apostle John to a local church he knew (maybe Ephesus and to those in Asia Minor). It was written to believers so that they could know the true nature of fellowship, know they have eternal life, and to address false teachers who had come into the church.

Book of 1st John Recap

The truth of the incarnation results in true fellowship with God – 1:1-4.

True Fellowship requires walking in the Light – 1:5—2:27.

True Fellowship requires walking in obedience – 2:28—4:6.

Message Statement for Today – We love like God when we truly know God.

Homiletical Outline

- I. God is Love – Vs. 7-8
 - A. Love – to have a warm regard for and interest in another, cherish, have affection for:
 1. To have a great affection or care for or loyalty towards.
 2. The word for love (ἀγαπάω agape) is used 27 times between vs. 7-21 so love is the main subject of this section.
 3. The one who loves is born of God and knows God.
 - a. Born – become the parent of, beget.
 - i. God has become our Father as Christians through the Gospel.
 - b. Know – to come to an understanding, realization.
 - i. Those who love and know God; those who don't, don't know God.
 - B. God is Love
 1. John has already stated that God is light (1:5), that walking in God means we are in the truth (1:6), and he also stated in his gospel that God is Spirit (4:24).
 2. Spirit and light are expressions of God's essential nature. Love is the expression of His personality corresponding to His nature (similar to the way that love is a fruit of the Spirit for us [Gal.5:22]). Truth and love stand related to each other. Loving is the condition of knowing.
 - II. The Manifestation of God's Love – Vs. 9-10
 - A. Manifestation - to cause to become known, disclose, show, make known.
 - B. Live - to live in a transcendent sense, live, of the sanctified life of a child of God (ζῆν in the sense of a higher type of life.
 1. We are personally assured of God's love for us because of the sacrificial death of Jesus.
 - C. The true nature of God's Love

1. Only Begotten Son – The one and unique eternal Son, Jesus who is different from us (4:7).
2. Propitiation – appeasement (the reconciliation) necessitated by sin, expiation (making amends).
 - a. Luke 18:9-14
 - b. Rom. 5:6-8
 - c. Christ became a means for reconciling us to God because of our own sin.
 - d. True love does not wait to be loved before it decides to love.
- D. The Standard of true love is seen in the sacrificial love of Christ. If we don't love sacrificially, then we are not meeting God's standard for love.
- III. The Results of God's Love – Vs. 11-13
 - A. The Apostle John starts a proposition here:
 1. If God so loved us – At this point as believers we have already confessed this to be true, so the statement is rhetorical.
 2. We ought to love one another
 - a. Ought - to be under obligation to meet certain social or moral expectations, owe.
 - b. Since God loved us, a deep sense of indebtedness to love flows from us.
 - c. God's love is the standard for how we love.
 - B. No one has seen God at any time – this is a statement about God the Father (John 1:18).
 1. It is also a statement that completes the thought above (1 4:19-20).
 - C. Us loving shows God is in Us
 1. Abide – Remains and stays (John 14:16-17).
 2. Perfected - to overcome or supplant an imperfect state of things by one that is free fr. objection, bring to an end, bring to its goal/accomplishment.
 - a. God perfects our love when we love one another.
 - D. The Holy Spirit is the seal of God's love for us – (Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30)
 1. The Trinitarian formula for God's Love – The Father loved us and demonstrated His love by sending The Son to die for us and seals us in that love by His Holy Spirit. Therefore, if we say we love God (The Father) we believe in the sacrificial death of His Son and we love Him and others by His Spirit.
- IV. Biblical Principles & Applications
 - A. Biblical Principles from this Passage
 1. We demonstrate that we are in God by our love.
 2. Christ's sacrificial death is the standard for love.
 3. Love does not wait on an act before loving.
 4. Love is done through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Applications
 1. This week, ask God to help you to demonstrate His love to others!