

1 John 4:7-5:5

Part 1 "Love One Another" – Written by John the Apostle "The disciple Christ loved" John 21:20

Intro – 3rd time that John speaks of love

1. 1 John 2:7-11 – Proof of fellowship with God – a matter of light and darkness
2. 1 John 3:10-14 – Proof of sonship – a matter of life and death

Context – 1 John 4:1-6

V1 – Discern truth from false teaching

V2 – "Jesus" test

V3-5 – "captive audience" – captured by the world vs. captured by God

V6 – The test of knowing the spirit of truth vs. spirit of error – Hearing God

V7-8 – What is God? "Love"

V9-11 – What did God do? "Sent Jesus"

V12-16 – What is God doing? "Abiding in us"

V17-5:5 – The Results of God's Love - Obedience

1 John 4:7-16 – Foundation of the matter is Love

- We discover why love is so important in a life of a believer (real life)
- It's a valid test of fellowship and sonship because God's very nature is love
- IF we belong to God, by faith, we share His nature
- SO love is the test of the reality of our spiritual life

1 John 4:17-5:5

- We see the results of belonging to God
- His love results in our honoring Him with obedience through faith

#1 What is God? 4:7-8

Compass

- Pilots, boaters, hikers depend on a compass to determine their location, course and destination
- It shows direction, points to North (magnetic)
- Why? The earth has a magnetic property and the compass needle is a magnet
 - Anywhere in the world no matter if you can anything you know which way North is
 - The compass is made to respond to the magnetic field that is part of the earth's design.
 - The compass responds to the nature of the earth
 - It's can't do anything else

God is Love.....

- 3X John encourages and exhorts us to "love one another" 1 John 4:7, 11, 12
 - This is supported by 3 fundamental facts about God
 - What He is
 - What He did
 - What He is doing
- Agape (noun) and Agapao (verb) – sacrificial, unselfish, unconditional
- **Culture's view of love is different**
 - **Top songs on Love**
- If we know God, we know His love
 - Have been born of God (Born Again)
 - We know His nature
- His nature is love
 - Because our "nature" is changed by faith in Christ.....**Eph. 4:22-24**
 - We will respond to His nature by showing love
- As a compass points north so a believer will naturally (supernaturally) practice love
 - Not forced, not phony and not fake
- It's proof of our fellowship with God and our sonship of God.

- 3rd expression by John on the nature of God
 - Spirit – **John 4:24** – His essence is not flesh and blood
 - Light – **1 John 1:5-10**; John 3:18-21 – He is holy and cannot sin, we have His holy nature
 - Love 1 John 4:8
 - Not “love is God”
 - Human love is not necessarily holy
 - God defines love, not the other way around
 - God is love and light = holy love
 - His holiness is expressed in His love
 - All that God does is expressed in all that God is
 - Judgments and wrath are even measured out in mercy and love **Lam. 3:22-23**
- **V7** – A command not a suggestion
 - Love one another – because love comes from God
 - If you love, you belong to God and know Him (ginosko)
 - Describes the intimate union between a husband and wife
 - Deep relationship
 - Beyond understanding, it’s perceiving truth
- **V8** – Don’t love – don’t know God
 - It’s an external sign of whether someone has relationship with God
 - Head vs. Heart
- What God is determines what we ought to be 1 John 4:17
 - It is the evidence of our fellowship and sonship
 - It’s a daily growing expression that is exciting and challenges our flesh
 - A person who claims to know God must be personally affected by this relationship.
 - We become what God is, and "God is love."
 - To say otherwise is to prove that one does not really know God!
- Youtube – Baby laughing

#2 What did God do? – V9-11

- Because God is love-He must communicate in words and deeds.
 - True love is never static or inactive – husband/wife
- God reveals His love to mankind in many ways.
 - He has geared all of creation to meeting men's needs.
- The greatest expression of God's love is in the death of His Son. **Romans 5:8**
- **V9** - Manifested means "to come out in the open, to be made public."
 - It is the opposite of "to hide, to make secret."
- Under the Old Covenant, God was hidden behind the shadows of ritual and ceremony (Heb. 10:1)
 - But in Jesus Christ "the life was manifested" (1 John 1:2). (John 14:9).
- **V9** - Why was Jesus Christ manifested?
 - (1 John 3:5) **READ – To take away our sins**
 - (1 John 3:8) **READ – to destroy the works of the devil**
 - Where did Jesus take away our sins and destroy (render inoperative) the works of the devil?
 - At the cross!
 - God manifested His love at the cross when He gave His Son as a sacrifice there for our sins.
- **V9** - Jesus is called God's only-begotten Son.
 - The title is used in John's Gospel (**John 1:14**).
 - It means "unique, the only one of its kind."
 - The fact that God sent His Son into the world is one evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ.
 - Babies are not sent into the world from some other place; they are born into the world.
 - Pictures of Cianna
 - As the perfect Man
 - Jesus was born into the world
 - As the eternal Son
 - He was sent into the world.

- God sending Christ into the world and death on the cross was not prompted by man's love for God.
 - They were prompted by His love for man.
- The world's attitude toward God was/is anything but love!
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- Two purposes are given for Christ's death on the cross
 - #1 - That we might live ***through* Him, "for Him" (2 Cor. 5:15), "with Him" (1 Thess. 5:9-10).**
- #2 - **V10** - That He might be the propitiation for our sins
- His death was not an accident; it was an appointment.
 - He did not die as a weak martyr, but as a mighty conqueror.
 - A sinner's desperate need is for life, because he is "dead in trespasses and sins" (**Eph. 2:1**)
 - And yet, He died for us (**Gal. 2:20**)
 - It is something of a paradox that Christ had to die so that we may live!

Propitiation – Substitutionary Atonement – Something innocent had to die so something guilty could walk away in freedom (also used in 1 John 2:2)

- The dictionary tells us that "to propitiate" means "to appease someone who is angry."
 - Not the picture applied to Christ
 - Not an angry God, about to destroy the world
 - Or a loving Savior giving Himself to appease the irate God
- Not the Bible's picture of salvation!
 - Certainly God is angry at sin because He is holy.
 - But the Bible tells us that "God so loved [not hated] the world" (John 3:16)
- It does not mean the appeasing of an angry God.
- It means the satisfying of God's holy law.
 - "God is light" (1 John 1:5) and, therefore, He cannot close His eyes to sin.
 - But "God is love" (1 John 4:8) too and wants to save sinners.
- How can a holy God uphold His own justice and still forgive sinners?
 - The sacrifice of Christ.
 - At the cross, God in His holiness judged sin.
 - God in His love offers Jesus Christ to the world as Savior.
 - God was just in that He punished sin
 - But He is also loving in that He offers free forgiveness through what Jesus did
- Christ is the Sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, but He is Advocate (**1 John 2:1**) for believers.
 - The word "advocate" used to be applied to lawyers
 - The word John uses is the very same word Jesus used when He was talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26; 15:26).
 - It means, literally, "one called alongside."
 - When a man was summoned to court, he took an advocate (lawyer) with him to stand at his side and plead his case.
 - Jesus finished His work on earth (John 17:4) the work of giving His life as a sacrifice for sin.
 - Today He has an "unfinished work" in heaven.
 - He represents us before God's throne.
 - As our High Priest, He sympathizes with our weaknesses and temptations and gives us grace (Heb. 4:15-16; 7:23-28).
 - As our Advocate, He helps us when we sin.
- When we confess our sins to God, because of Christ's advocacy God forgives us. **1 John 1:9**
- **V11**- For the second time, believers are exhorted to "love one another" (1 John 4:11).
 - This exhortation is a commandment to be obeyed (1 John 4:7)
 - The exhortation to love one another is presented as a privilege as well as a responsibility
- We are not saved by loving Christ
 - We are saved by believing on Christ (**John 3:16**).
 - When we realize what He did for us our natural response is to love one another.
- Believers must progress in their understanding of love.
 - To love one another simply out of a sense of duty is good,
 - But to love out of appreciation (rather than obligation) is even better.

- This may be one reason why Jesus established the Lord's Supper, the Communion service.
 - When we break the bread and share the cup, we remember His death.
 - Most of us want to remember the life of a loved one and try to forget the sadness of his death.
 - Not so with Christ - He commands us to remember His death: "This do in remembrance of Me!"
- We should remember our Lord's death in a spiritual way, not merely sentimentally.
 - Someone has defined sentiment as "feeling without responsibility."
 - It's easy to experience solemn emotions at a church and then go live the same defeated life.
 - True spiritual experience involves the whole person
 - Our **mind** must understand spiritual truth, our **heart** must love it; our **will** must act on it.
 - The deeper we go into the meaning of the Cross, the deeper our love for Christ will be
 - The greater we will "love one another"
- Conclusion
 - God is love
 - God sent His son Jesus to die in our place
 - Because of this we must "love one another"