

1 John 4:7-5:5 – Part 2

LW – “love one another” v7, 11 A command

V7-8 – What is God? “Love” our nature is His nature when we are “born of God” Light + Spirit + Love = Life

V9-11 – What did God do? “Sent Jesus” His love manifested (publically) on the cross.

- **But a third foundational fact takes us even deeper into the meaning and implications of Christian love.**

Part 2 “Love One Another, Because He first loved.....”

- V12-16 – What is God doing? “Abiding in us”
- V17-5:5 – The Results of God’s Love – Boldness, Honesty, Obedience and Victory

#3 What God is doing – Read V12-16 – “abides” in believers; third time “love one another”

- God's desire is to live in us - abide
 - It's what He had in mind when He devised His great plan of salvation.
- OT Review
 - Genesis God had fellowship with man in a personal, direct way - sin broke that fellowship.
 - But then God walked with men, and men walked with God. Enoch, Noah, and Abraham
 - In Exodus, God walked and dwelt with men (Ex. 25:8).
 - The tabernacle, the glory of God came down and moved into the tent (Ex. 40:33-35).
 - God dwelt in the camp, but not in people of Israel.
 - The nation sinned and God's glory departed (1 Sam. 4:21).
 - God used Samuel and David to restore the nation; and Solomon to build a temple.
 - The temple was dedicated, the glory of God came to dwell in the land (1 Kings 8:1-11).
 - Israel disobeyed God, was taken into Captivity and the temple was destroyed
 - Ezekiel, saw the glory of God depart from it (Ezek. 8:4; 9:3; 10:4; 11:22-23).
- The glory returned in the Person of God's Son, Jesus Christ (**READ John 1:14**).
 - God's glory dwelt on earth in Jesus, His body was the temple of God (**READ John 2:18-22**).
 - But men nailed His body to a cross. (1 Cor. 2:8).
- This was God's plan, Christ rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and the Holy Spirit came
 - The glory of God now lives in believers. (**1 Cor. 6:19**)
- This is the context for 1 John 4:12-16
- V12-14 - God is invisible **1 Tim. 1:17**, and no man can see Him in His essence.
- Jesus is "the image of the invisible God" (**Col. 1:15**). **READ**
 - Jesus was able to reveal God to us
- Now He reveals Himself through the lives of believers.
 - Men cannot see God, but they can see us.
 - We abide in Christ
 - We love one another
 - This will reveal God's love to a lost world.
- God's love will be experienced in us and then will be expressed through us.
- The word abide (stay, dwell, meno) is used 5 times in 1 John 4:12-16
 - It refers to our personal fellowship with Jesus Christ.
 - To abide in Christ means to remain in spiritual oneness with Him
 - So that no sin comes between us.
- Because we are "born of God," we have union with Christ
 - As we trust Him and obey His commandments, we have communion with Him.
- Faithful husband and wife "abide in love" (separated by miles) so a believer abides in God's love.
- This abiding is made possible by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:13).
 - The Old Testament Israelite would look with wonder at the tabernacle or temple
 - Because the presence of God was in that building.
 - No man would dare to enter the holy of holies, where God was enthroned in glory!
- But we have God's Spirit living in us!
- We abide in this love, and we experience the abiding of God in us. (**John 14:23**).
- God's love is manifested in the Word – Jesus ("God is love") and proved at the cross.

- **God's love is perfected in the believer, in sinners saved by His grace.**
 - Perfect(ed) – teleios (teleio) – fulfilled; to bring to completion
 - Believers – “God’s love abides in me”
 - Because of that – “God’s love is perfected in me”
- Believers are now the tabernacles and temples in which God dwells.
 - He reveals His love through us.
 - The world won’t believe that God loves sinners until they see His love at work in believer’s lives
 - An effective testimony is our love for one another
- Jesus preached the love of God and exemplified it by giving His life on the cross.
 - He commands His followers to do likewise.
 - If we abide in Christ, we will abide in His love.
 - If we abide in His love, we must share this love with others.
- V15-16 – “Whoever confesses” – *homologeō* = speak out, agree, acknowledge
 - When we share this love, it is evidence we are abiding in Christ.
 - There is no separation between a Christian's inner life and his outer life.
- This is a promise of God
- Abiding in God's love produces at least two spiritual benefits in the life of a believer:
 - He grows in knowledge (as we love we know Him)
 - He grows in faith (1 John 4:16).
- The more we love God, the more we understand the love of God.
 - The more we understand His love, the easier it is for us to trust Him.
 - By knowing him intimately and loving Him sincerely, we have confidence in Him.
- Some practical applications grow out of this basic truth:
 - First, the better we know God's love, the easier it will be to live as a Christian.
 - Bible knowledge alone does not take the place of personal experience of God's love.
 - In fact, it can be a dangerous substitute if we are not careful.
 - A second consideration is that unless we love the lost, our verbal witness to them will be useless.
 - The Gospel message is a message of love and hope.
 - This love was both declared and demonstrated by Jesus Christ.
 - We must declare the Gospel AND demonstrate it in how we live.
 - People need an expression of love.
- **Something to ponder:**
 - Is one reason why God permits the world to hate Christians, so that we may return love for the world's hatred? **Matt 5:11, 44**

And The Results of God’s Love – Boldness, Honesty, Obedience and Victory

1 John 4:17-5:5 **READ**

- We see the results of belonging to God
- His love results in our honoring Him with obedience through faith
- The emphasis has been on Christians loving one another
 - Now we turn to a believer's love for the Father.
- We cannot love our neighbor or our brother unless we love God. **Matt. 22:37**
 - We must first love God with all our hearts; then we can love our neighbor as ourselves.
 - The key word in this section is perfect.
- God wants to perfect in us His love for us and our love for Him.
 - The word perfect carries the idea of maturity and completeness.
 - A believer is to grow in grace and knowledge **2 Peter 3:18**
 - Also we are to grow in our love for the Father.
- We do this in response to the Father’s love for us.
- V17-19 – Boldness/Confidence – Mark 3:15; Acts 4:13
 - Boldness – confidence (NASB) – *parresia* – freedom of speech
 - Fear – phobia – fear of judgment – 1 John 2:28
 - Past, Present, Future

- Torment – kolasis – punishment (NASB)
- V20-21 - Honesty – 3X “If we say” Ch.1, 3X “He who says” Ch. 2, 1X “If someone says” Ch. 4
 - Can’t love God and not brother
 - “liar”
 - Love seen vs. unseen
- 5:1-3 – Obedience
 - Love God must love brother
 - If we believe that Jesus is Christ
 - We are born of God
 - Love Him who begot loves him who is begotten
 - Begot = born = gennao = brought forth
 - We know that we love God’s people when we keep His commandments
 - The love of God is keeping His commandments
 - They are not a burden
 - What commandments?
 - Love God
 - Love others
 - Even our enemies and even those that want to kill us
 - Purim – Esther 10
 - Christians today can feel as though we're enslaved in ancient Persia.
 - The Islamic State and its sympathizers seek to murder believers in the Middle East and around the world
 - But God says, “love your enemies” **READ Matthew 5:43-48**
- 5:4-5 - Victory
 - Believers are born of God, therefore we have overcome the world
 - Victory = our faith
 - Those that believe in Christ can overcome the world.
 - *The Global War on Christians*, 90 percent of all religious martyrs today are followers of Christ. John Allen
 - Western culture increasingly rejects biblical morality and ridicules us for our beliefs.
 - When we suffer faithfully and joyfully for our Lord, we reveal our unseen God to our unbelieving world. **1 Peter 4:16 READ**
- Who will know that you have been with Jesus today?
 - Do you walk in Victory?
 - Do you live in Obedience?
 - Are you being Honest about your walk?
 - Are you bold for the kingdom?
 - Do you abide in God
- You do if you are “born again”
 - Loving one another, because He first loved.....