

a Study of

1st John

[1 John 4](#)

[Nov & Dec 2014](#)

Review

1 John 1:1-4 NASB What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life-- (2) and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and **was manifested to us**-- (3) what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, **so that you too may have fellowship with us**; and indeed our fellowship is **with the Father**, and **with His Son Jesus Christ**. (4) These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

1 John 4:1-4 NASB

- (1) Beloved, **do not** believe every spirit, but **test** the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
- (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;
- (3) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
- (4) You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:1-4 MSG

- (1) My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who

talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.

- (2) Here's how you test for the genuine Spirit of God. Everyone who confesses openly his faith in Jesus Christ--the Son of God, who came as an actual flesh-and-blood person--comes from God and belongs to God.
- (3) And everyone who refuses to confess faith in Jesus has nothing in common with God. This is the spirit of antichrist that you heard was coming. Well, here it is, sooner than we thought!
- (4) My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world.

1 John 4:5 NASB They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them.

1 John 4:5 NLT Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them.

1 John 4:5 MSG These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up.

1 John 4:6 NASB We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 4:6 MSG But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception.

1 John 4:7-8 NASB

- (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

The proper definition of love is very important to know.

Love is unconditional giving:

John 3:16 NASB "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Love is keeping the Lord's commands:

Jesus was our example of perfect LOVE & what did He do?

John 5:19 NASB Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 8:28 NASB So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

John 14:15 NASB "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:21, 23-24 NASB "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

(23) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. (24) "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

John 14:24 MSG Not loving me means not keeping my words. The message you are hearing isn't mine. It's the message of the Father who sent me.

John 15:10-14 NASB

(10) "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

- (11) "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.
- (12) "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
- (13) "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.
- (14) "You are My friends if you do what I command you.

Love is: A choice & commitment to unconditional giving in obedience to the Lord

1 John 4:7-8 NASB

- (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

1 John 4:7-8 MSG (7) My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. (8) The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love--so you can't know him if you don't love.

1 John 4:7-8 NASB

- (7) Beloved, let us **love** one another, for **love** is from God; and everyone who **loves** is born of God and knows God.
- (8) The one who does not **love** does not know God, for **God is love.**

**You CAN'T love without knowing God.
We need to know God, to know LOVE!**

Galatians 5:6 NASB For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 5:6 KJV For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Another way to say it: **Faith is empowered through love**

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NASB

- (1) If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- (2) If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- (3) And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Daily, we need to examine & compare our actions to REAL LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:1--3 NASB

- (4) Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,
- (5) does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,
- (6) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- (8) Love never fails...

God is all of those things!

1 John 4:9-11 NASB

- (9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

(Does God want to manifest His Love in our lives?)

- (10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

(...not that God loved us conditionally because of our love for Him...)

- (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one

another.

(Beloved, if God loved us this unconditional way,...)

1 John 4:11 NLT Dear friends, since God **loved** us that much, we surely ought to **love** each other.

1 John 4:12-13 NASB

(12) No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

(13) By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:12-13 NLT

(12) No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us.

(13) And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us.

We are also to be the Visible Image of the invisible God

Colossians 1:15 NASB He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1:15 NLT Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

Colossians 1:15 MSG We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created.

1 John 4:13 MSG This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit.

1 John 4:14-16 NASB

(14) We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

(15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

(16) We have come to know and have believed the love which God

has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4:16 AMP And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience) and believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us. God is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him.

Zane Hodges in *The Epistles of John: Walking In The Light Of God's Love*:

"No body of believers will really be any stronger than the extent to which they manifest God's love by loving one another."

Warren Wiersbe:

"Too much 'witnessing' today is a mere mouthing of words. People need an expression of love."

1 John 4:17 NASB By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

1 John 4:17 NLT And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face Him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

1 John 4:17 MSG This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day--our standing in the world is identical with Christ's.

1 John 4:18 NASB There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

1 John 4:18 NLT Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love.

1 John 4:19 NASB We love, because He first loved us.

G. S. Sloyan:

"God always makes the first move in the game of love."

1 John 4:20-21 NASB

(20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

(21) And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Dr. Thomas Constable:

"A claim to love God is a poor substitute for genuine love of the brethren."

1 John 4:21 MSG The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.