

1 John

Chapter 4, Verses 13-21

General Introduction

- One of the five Johannine books
 - All written around the end of the First Century
 - All traditionally associated with the Apostle John
- One of the three Johannine Letters
 - But 1 John appears not to be a typical letter
- It has been described as a sermon which takes the Gospel of John as its text (Plummer).

General Introduction

- 1 John is, in any case, an “exhortation” directed by one who understands himself to have substantial pastoral authority, to a group of Christian believers, regarding certain issues:
 - Doctrinal
 - Moral
 - Social

Review

- The author begins by identifying himself as one of the Apostles who had seen, heard, and touched Jesus Christ during his time among men on earth, and who had proclaimed to them the message which the Apostles had received from Jesus, namely that God is perfect. **(1:1-5)**
- We must admit that we all have sin, and that our sin is inconsistent with God's perfection. But if we confess our sins, because of Christ's blood shed for us, God forgives our sins and cleanses us from unrighteousness. **(1:6-2:2)**

Review

- Those who know him obey his commandments and live Christ-like lives. **(2:3-6)**
- This is the same word which had already been spoken to the Christian believers to whom John is writing, but they must understand that this word calls them away from the sinful world which is passing away and into the light which is already shining. Hatred of the brothers and love of the world are no longer possible for them, if they truly belong to God. **(2:7-17)**

Review

- It is because the world is in its final hour that many have gone out from the church, thereby revealing that they were never part of the Church. They deny that Jesus is the Christ and thereby deny the Father also. **(2:18-19, 22-23)**
- Those who are anointed by the Holy Spirit, continue to believe that Jesus is the Christ. John writes to them, not to tell them anything new, but to keep them from being deceived by those “antichrists” who have gone out from them. **(2:20-21, 24-27)**

Review

- Christians are Children of God already. When Christ returns, this will become apparent to everyone. It is because we hope for this that we purify ourselves, so that we will not be ashamed when he returns. **(2:28-3:3)**
- Those who make a practice of sinning, and who do not love their brothers, are not children of God, but children of the devil. **(3:4-3:10)**

Review

- Christians should love one another. **(3:11)**
- Christians should not be like Cain, who murdered his brother because he was righteous, and we should **not** be surprised that the world hates us. **(3:12-13)**
- Because we love, we know we will live forever **(3:14a)**
- Everyone who hates is, at heart, a murderer, bound to die. **(3:14b-15)**

Review

- We *know* love because Christ laid down his life for us, and we *ought* to do the same for the brothers. **(3:16)**
- Certainly we *should* share with our brothers in need what God has given to us. **(3:17)**
- Love is not a matter of talk but of deed and truth. **(3:18)**
- Our acts of genuine compassion reassure us that we truly are children of God. **(3:19)**
- Such assurance causes us to pray for things that please God, and so God gives us what we ask for. **(3:20-22)**

Review

- God's commandment is this: that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another. **(3:23)**
- When we do this, we live in God and God lives in us; and we *know* that God lives in us by the Spirit whom God has given us. **(3:24)**

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Not everyone who *claims* to have the Spirit of God is telling the truth. **(4:1)**
- Everyone who truly is of God, confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh; everyone who does not confess Jesus is not from God. **(4:2-3)**
- The people to whom John is writing believe the Apostles' testimony concerning Jesus, proving they are from God, that they have overcome the world, and that the Spirit of truth abides in them. **(4:4,6)**

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Those who listen to false prophets and reject the testimony of the Apostles concerning Christ, prove thereby, that they are not from God, but are instead from the world and the spirit of error resides in them. **(4:5-6)**
- Because they have the Spirit of truth and are from God, John and the Christians to whom he writes must love one another, because love is also from God. **(4:7)**
- Those who do not love, thereby prove that they do not know God, because God is love. **(4:8)**

Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- We know that God is love because he sent his beloved son into the world to die in our place, so that we might live. **(4:9-10)**
- Because God so loved us, we ought to love one another. **(4:11)**
- If we do, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us. **(4:12)**

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- Yet, it is also supposed to be "true love" (3:18).
- Deeds which might be loving, might not be. (1 Co. 13:3)
- Love is not something that we can simply decide to do.

Comment

- Love is something that begins in God, flows from God to us, his children, and is expressed (perfected) in our love for one another.

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- When we love, it is God loving in and through us.
- When we love we are truly God's children.
- Such thoughts inhabit the text we are reading.

1 John 4:13-16

4:13神が御霊をわたしたちに賜わったことによって、わたしたちが神におり、神がわたしたちにいますことを知る。

4:14わたしたちは、父が御子を世の救主としておつかわしになったのを見て、そのあかしをするのである。

4:15もし人が、イエスを神の子と告白すれば、神はその人のうちにいまし、その人は神のうちにいるのである。

1 John 4:13-16

4:16わたしたちは、神がわたしたちに対して持っておられる愛を知り、かつ信じている。神は愛である。愛のうちにいる者は、神におり、神も彼にいます。

1 John 4:13-16

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his 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 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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- All of these things are true and attested to elsewhere.
- Just here I think he is probably considering the Spirit.

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- That the Spirit he has given us constitutes evidence that God abides in us, is a point which John has made before, more than once.

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- See especially the last verse of Chapter 3.

1 John 4:14

わたしたちは、父が御子を世の救主としておつかわしになったのを見て、そのあかしをするのである。

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

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- The previous statement, about the giving of the Holy Spirit, can be made generally about every Christian.
- This present statement, about having **seen** the Son, is most literally true for John and the other Apostles.

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- But the Spirit who is given to all Christians enables them to **believe** the testimony of the Apostles and, thereby, to also to **“see and to testify”** that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

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- The other one (importantly) is in John 4:42.

1 John 4:15

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

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- A genuine confession that Jesus is the Son of God proves that a person (even a Samaritan!) is a child of God.
- Such a confession is possible because of the Spirit God has given (v. 13) and the testimony of the Apostles. (v. 14)

1 John 4:16

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So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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- The Apostolic testimony which Christians believe (i.e. that the Father has sent his son to be the Savior of the world) is how we come to know and believe the **love** that God has for us.

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- I understand this to mean that all true love originates in and flows from God.

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- Again he tells us, “God is love.”
- I understand this to mean that all true love originates in and flows from God.
- Thus when we truly love, we know we are children of God.

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- It also follows that faith and love are inseparable.

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- It also follows that faith and love are inseparable.
 - You cannot have faith without love.
 - You cannot have love without faith.
 - You cannot, by the way, have either without the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:17-21

4:17わたしたちもこの世にあって彼のように生きているので、さばきの日に確信を持って立つことができる。そのことによって、愛がわたしたちに全うされているのである。

4:18愛には恐れがない。完全な愛は恐れをとり除く。恐れには懲らしめが伴い、かつ恐れる者には、愛が全うされていないからである。

4:19わたしたちが愛し合うのは、神がまずわたしたちを愛して下さったからである。

1 John 4:17-21

4:20 「神を愛している」と言いながら兄弟を憎む者は、偽り者である。現に見ている兄弟を愛さない者は、目に見えない神を愛することはできない。

4:21 神を愛する者は、兄弟をも愛すべきである。この戒めを、わたしたちは神から授かっている。

1 John 4:17-21

¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:17-21

²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he 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: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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- What is “this.”

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By **this** is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

- What is “this.”
- I think “this” refers to the indwelling Spirit of God, which enables us to understand and believe God’s love for us, and us to express God’s love for our brothers and sisters.

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By this **is love perfected with us**, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

- This perfects our “ability” to love.

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By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, **because as he is so also are we in this world.**

- The point is that while we are in this world we are led to become more like God (Christ).

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- The point is that while we are in this world we are led to become more like God (Christ).
- So that when Judgment Day comes, we will be confident before him!

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By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because *as he is so also are we* in this world.

- It is Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who teaches us to pray to God the Father, and the Holy Spirit living in us who makes this possible!

1 John 4:18

愛には恐れがない。完全な愛は恐れをとり除く。恐れには懲らしめが伴い、かつ恐れる者には、愛が全うされていないからである。

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

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There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. **For fear has to do with punishment**, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

- After we first come to understand our own sin and God's perfect holiness, men naturally fear God, and wish to flee from him, because we know how dirty we are and what punishment we deserve.

1 John 4:18

愛には恐れがない。完全な愛は恐れをとり除く。恐れには懲らしめが伴い、かつ恐れる者には、愛が全うされていないからである。

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

- But as the Spirit whom God has given us leads us to understand more fully the gospel of Christ, and as we come increasingly to experience God's love in and through our own love for the brothers, our fear of God subsides.

1 John 4:18

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There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

- By **living** in God's love, we come to understand what God's love is, and therefore we cease to fear him, and begin to desire him and wish to be in his presence, more and more.

1 John 4:19

わたしたちが愛し合うのは、神がまずわたしたちを愛して下さいたからである。

We love because he first loved us.

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- I think our capacity to love others is directly proportional to our understanding of the extent of God's love for us.

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We love because he first loved us.

- I think our capacity to love others is directly proportional to our understanding of the extent of God's love for us.
- Those who are loving, in other words, know that they are loved, and do not fear coming into the presence of God.

1 John 4:20

「神を愛している」と言いながら兄弟を憎む者は、偽り者である。現に見ている兄弟を愛さない者は、目に見えない神を愛することはできない。

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

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If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.**

- I think that God gives us to one another in this life, to love and be loved by, so that we can learn to love and be loved by him!

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If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

- Therefore if we hate our brothers, it means precisely that we hate God, and we will flee from him on judgment day.

1 John 4:21

神を愛する者は、兄弟をも愛すべきである。この戒めを、わたしたちは神から授かっている。

And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:21

神を愛する者は、兄弟をも愛すべきである。この戒めを、わたしたちは神から授かっている。

And this **commandment** we have from him: whoever loves God must also **love his brother**.

- If we desire to love God and be with God in eternity, then God's minimum requirement is that we “also” learn to love our brothers now, in this world.

1 John 4:21

神を愛する者は、兄弟をも愛すべきである。この戒めを、わたしたちは神から授かっている。

And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

- But in a mysterious sort of way, I think that learning to love our brothers now in this world, is the same thing as learning to love God.