

THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE

I. ABIDING IN GOD'S LOVE – 1 John 4:16

- A. We abide in God's love by knowing what His Word says about His love for us.
- B. We abide in God's love by knowing the results of Christ's death and resurrection for us – we have been redeemed, forgiven, adopted, reconciled and sealed by the Spirit.
- C. We abide in God's love by abiding in God, by having a relationship with God. 1 John 4:16
- D. We abide in God's love by walking in the Spirit – 1 John 3:24, 4:13
- E. We abide in God's love by thinking of all the ways God loves us – He provides, He protects, He gives, He forgives, He communicates, He is compassionate, He is patient, He is gentle, He gives us hope, He gives us family and friends.

II. BEING PERFECTED IN LOVE – 1 John 4:17

A mature, grown-up Christian is one who loves God and who loves people.

III. KNOWING GOD'S LOVE MEANS YOU'LL BE A CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN – 1 John 4:17

- A. You should be confident in the day of judgment. Your name is written in the book of life, meaning Christ died for your sins, and was judged for you. Revelation 20:11-15, Romans 8:1
- B. A new or young Christian will be spiritually attacked, but he needs to learn to abide in God's love, and then he will grow in confidence. Romans 8:35-39
- C. An unbeliever should have great fear when he thinks about the day of judgment. If he doesn't repent before his death, then he will be declared guilty, and be thrown into the lake of fire, and be punished forever. Revelation 14:9-11, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

IV. SOME OF THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES ABOUT SIN AND JUDGMENT

- A. The devil wants people to deny the truth about God, sin, guilt, and hell. He doesn't want people to think there's a need for Christ to save them from sin, death and hell.
- B. When sharing the gospel, you need to tell people why they need Christ, that they are sinners, and that they are guilty, and that they'll be punished in a real place called hell, unless they repent and believe in Christ. Mark 1:15, John 3:16, John 5:24, Luke 13:1-5

V. *“PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR”* – 1 John 4:18

- A. The person who is afraid is usually either an unbeliever or a young Christian.
- B. Every Christian should desire to be perfected in love, for then he'll have confidence in his relationship with God, and will not be afraid of the judgment or anything else.
- C. Being judged by Jesus Christ and going to hell is the greatest fear there is, and if you are not going to be punished in hell, if that's been taken care of by Christ, then everything else in life is no real problem, no difficulty. If the worst problem is taken care of, then you can trust God to take care of all the smaller problems.
- D. Being physically killed is not a very big issue compared to being eternally dead, and being punished in the lake of fire forever and ever. Luke 12:4-7
- E. As a Christian, the main thing is knowing that God has saved you from your sin, and so now you are His child, and as your Father, He loves you and doesn't want you to worry about anything. Luke 12:22-32

O MY STRENGTH, I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU;
FOR GOD IS MY STRONGHOLD,
THE GOD WHO SHOWS ME LOVINGKINDNESS.
Psalm 59:17

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why is it so important that you abide in God's love?
3. What specifically do you need to do to abide in God's love?
4. What does it mean to be a confident Christian? Why is this so important?
5. How are you to share the gospel with an unbeliever? What do they need to know?
6. What should be the greatest fear? Why are many unbelievers not afraid of the judgment?
7. What kind of fears do you have? How can you get victory over your fears?