

A Never-Changing God in an Ever-Changing World

The Permanency of God's Love in a fickle, capricious, and transient world

1 John 4:7-12

PART TWO

Introduction

God's *agape* love has no craving, no desperation, no neediness in it.

God calls and equips His children to love the same way He loves: *joyfully, willingly, and sacrificially.*

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God" (v7);

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (v11).

"And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4:21

v9

"was made manifest"

Jesus is the "firstborn" of many believers who would come after Him, those with His life in them.

We are called to live His life here on earth. We are called as witnesses of the love of Christ.

Romans 8:29

Colossians 1:18

Romans 6:4

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Isaiah 63:9

"that we might live through him"

John 14:12

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

"you will"

So, the manifestation of the love of Christ in the believer is proof of salvation and the indwelling Spirit.

"Self-sacrificing love is thus made the essence of the Christian life." B.B. Warfield

Our foremost failure with God is not a failure to obey, but a failure to love.

John 14:18-24

1 John 5:2-4

v10

We love because we have been loved by God who manifested His love by sending His Son to die for our sins.

“propitiation” to placate, appease; to conciliate, satisfy.

It is not that God loves us because Christ died for us. It is that Christ died for us because God loves us.

Romans 3:23-25, 27

Romans 5:8-11

v11

The Indicative-Imperative Paradigm

Clearly, the gospel call to love one another assumes a love like our Father, *self-sacrificial service*.

1 John 3:16

The cross teaches us how to love. Without it, we would have no idea how to love.

v12

“No one has ever seen God”

"you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." Exodus 33:20

John 1:18

Christ “is the image of the invisible God” Colossians 1:15

John 14:8-10

“perfected” i.e., reaching its intended goal.

When your love imitates God’s, you make Him visible to an otherwise blind people and you glorify Him.

“I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!” Psalm 119:32

Hold on to the indicatives, that which is true about God, who He is, and what He has done for you.

Protect your love for God.

Ephesians 5:1-2