

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
LOVE THAT CASTS OUT FEAR
1 JOHN 4:7-21 (Text Vs. 18)

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Introduction

Let's read the full passage here but I want to emphasize Verse 18 as our text verse for this section of Scripture.

We want to take a look at this matter of **HAVING A LOVE THAT CASTS OUT FEAR**. The context of it is speaking of our anticipation of standing before the **LORD** in judgment. So what can we make of John's discourse here on the love of God and its relationship to fear?

I. WE SEE THAT LOVE IS A FAMILY TRAIT OF BEING BORN!
(Vs. 7-8)

We could talk about our physical family and each of us could tell about what family traits—good or bad—that we bear from our families—Am I right?! (*Give some examples*)

The same is true when we are born again into God's family! **There are some family traits that should be a part of our life because of us being a part of God's family!**

A. We Are To Love One Another Because Love Is Of God!
(Vs. 7)

Much that is called love today has no resemblance to the love that this is speaking of! This love...God's love...can be defined as *seeking the highest good for another!* It is the same as the Word translated "charity" in 1 Corinthians 13 and other places.

God sought our highest good when we were at enmity with Him!

B. Manifesting Love Is Evidence Of The New Birth! (Vs. 7)

C. Manifesting A Lack Of Love Gives Evidence Of NO New Birth! (vs. 7)

D. God Is Love! (Vs. 8)

1. **"God is love."** (Vs. 8)
2. **"God is a Spirit."** (John 4:24)

3. **"God is light."** (1 John 1:5)

E. To Be Born Of God Means We Are His Family And As Such Should Bear This Great Family Trait Of Love!

WE SEE THAT LOVE IS A FAMILY TRAIT!

II. WE SEE THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF LOVE!
(Vs. 9-10)

A. The Greatest Example Of Love Was God's Love Toward Us In The Sending His Son Into This World So That We Might Have Eternal Life! (Vs. 9; Cf. *John 3:16*)

1. **We "Live Through Him."** (Vs 9)
He is the reason that we have life!
In fact, His resurrected life IS our life!

2. **We Are To "Live For Him."**
2 Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

3. **We "Live Together With Him."**
1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

B. The Direction Of Love—It Came Down From God. (Vs. 10)
God loved Israel NOT because of them, but because of Him! He chose to love them!

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

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The same is true for us! God didn't love us because of us, but He loves us because of Himself! He chose to love us!

Romans 5:6-8 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

C. The Result Of This Greatest Love! (Vs. 10)

Propitiation is God's righteous anger being appeased!

Propitiation is not man doing something to appease God, because man could not and cannot do anything to appease God!

Propitiation is something God did for all of mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ, to make it possible for men to be forgiven. Otherwise it would NOT have been possible!

WE SEE THAT LOVE IS A FAMILY TRAIT!
WE SEE THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF LOVE!

III. WE SEE THE CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR US TO LOVE! (Vs. 11-12)

A. God's Love Obligates Us To Love. (Vs. 11)

The phrase here "*God so loved*" is the same expression as in **John 3:16**.

Pay attention to "**ought**" = "**to owe; to be under obligation**"

B. Our Love Is The Manifestation Of God Dwelling In Us. (Vs 12)

God the Father is not known by sight! No person has ever seen Him face to face. No person has ever penetrated the spiritual world and crossed over into heaven and seen God.

"But God dwelleth in us"

God has given us His Spirit dwelling within us!

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God's Spirit manifests Himself in our lives through the fruit of His Holy Spirit that indwells us!

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 meekness, temperance...

C. God's Love Is Perfected In Us! (Vs 12)

When we love one another, God's love becomes perfected, that is, it is completed and fulfilled in us. As we continue to grow in the Lord, we grow in our love. We continue to mature more, ever completing and perfecting the love of God and manifesting the love of God upon earth.

IV. WE SEE THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF GOD GIVES US ASSURANCE! (Vs 13)
The Spirit Testifies To A Double Indwelling. (Vs. 13; John 15:1-10)

A. The Spirit Testifies To Us That We Dwell In God!

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

B. The Spirit Testifies To Us That God Dwells In Us!

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

In the Old Testament God dwelt in the Tabernacle and then the Temple, but now He dwells in the Believer. Think about that!!

V. WE SEE THE DECLARATION OF JOHN AND THE APOSTLES REGARDING GOD'S LOVE! (Vs. 14-16)

We haven't seen Jesus in the flesh. The Apostles did though, and they testified that Jesus Christ was sent by His Heavenly Father to be the Saviour of the world! The testimony and proofs are in the Gospel!

Those that confess Christ as Saviour dwell in God and God dwells in them!

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And John says in *verse 16* that they came to know and believe the love that God had to them. (And that's how we got saved too!)

When we trusted Christ by believing the Gospel, God took up residence in our lives by His Holy Spirit and God is love!

The love of God that was manifested by Jesus on the cross is now manifested in our lives! Love is a working force in our lives.

VI. WE SEE THE PERFECTION OF LOVE! (Vs. 17-21)

The word "*love*" in this *passage is active and therefore observed through the behavior it causes. It is also a matter of choice.*

It describes a **concern for another that is chosen and manifested by behavior.** For example, God's love was shown through His sending His Son so that we might live! **(Vs. 9)**

Likewise, we love one another in similar ways. That is, while we can never give to the extent that God has given, **our love will still be an active choice of seeking to bring good to others!** **(Vs. 11-12)**

We have come to know the love of God by coming to know His Gift! We learn of this through the testimony of the Apostles which has been written for us! **(Vs. 13-14)**

This is the Good News, or the Gospel of Christ. The love of God came into our lives when we obeyed the Gospel by believing it! Again, this love is active, not passive.

A. Love's Perfection In Us. (Vs. 17-18)

God's love within us grows and matures. That is the meaning of the words "*made perfect*" in *verse 17*.

As we continue to live and act through love, love is being perfected within us.

Love on our part is active just as God's love is active.

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As love grows, a neat thing begins to happen with "*fear*" related to judgment.

Speaking in this context of the judgment (Judgment seat of Christ), this passage tells us that this kind of fear diminishes and vanishes. In its place there is built confidence **(Vs. 17-18)**

1. **God makes our love mature. (vs. 17a)**
2. **This will help us face the judgment seat of Christ. (vs. 17b)**

3. **There is no fear in love. (vs. 18a)**

4. **Love casteth out fear. (vs. 18b)**

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 8:1, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Our sins were judged on the cross.

5. **Fear reveals immaturity. (vs. 18c) (Romans 8:35-39)**
Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

B. The Greatest Incentive To Love. (Vs. 19)

1. The eternal love of God is the fountain of all that is good in us.
2. He loved us when we were unlovely. **(Titus 3:3-7)**

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VII. WE SEE THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOVE. (Vs. 20-21)

A. The Man Who Is A Liar. (Vs. 20a)

B. The Unanswerable Question. (Vs. 20b)

C. The Commandment Of Consistency. (Vs. 21; 5:1)

If we love God, we will manifest His love in our lives for our brethren whom He loves!

Conclusion

Have you come to know God's love in the person of Jesus Christ?

If not, why not? Don't put it off!

If you have come to know God's love in the person of Jesus Christ, then God dwells in you by His Holy Spirit Who is taking up residence in your life!

And God is love! He manifested His love to you in what He did for you in sending Jesus Christ to pay for your sin!

You manifest your love for Him by obedience to Him and loving the brethren!

When you do that it gives you confidence before Him! A confidence that dispels the fear of standing before Him in judgment!