

LOVE
AN INDICATION OF SALVATION
1 John 4:7-21
5/2/04

Christians have always been known for their love.

A Roman governor who was persecuting Christians wrote a letter in amazement saying, "Oh how they love one another."

Christians throughout history have been known as the ones who have started orphanages, helped the poor, founded hospitals and established schools for the disadvantaged.

Many have left their own countries at great personal cost and suffering to minister to the disadvantaged in other cultures on distant continents.

1 John keeps repeating three identifiers of true faith, three signs of genuine salvation

Truth, righteousness, and love

A genuine Christian abides in the truth. 2:19, 22-24; 4:6

A true Christian lives a righteous life. 2:29; 3:9-10

A genuine Christian demonstrates an active love for the brethren. 2:7-11; 3:10-18; 4:7-21

In our passage this morning John returns to the subject of love.

We will see in our passage this morning that:

A genuine unselfish love is being perfected by God is in the life of every true believer.

This love is a sign that God lives in us.

Seeing God produce this love in our lives gives us confidence that we have been saved.

This confidence casts out fear of the coming judgment.

1. The Command To Love 4:7a, 21

John 13:34

2. The Significance Of Love 4:7b-8

a. God is love. v. 8

- God is spirit. John 4:24

- God is light. 1 John 1:5
- God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:9
- God is love. 1 John 4:8
 - ◆ Since God's nature exhibits love as a chief characteristic, God's children will also reflect love.

b. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. v. 7c

- is born of God
- knows God

c. The one who does not love does not know God. vv. 8, 20 cf 2:9-11; 3:14-15

- Only those who display love possess God's divine nature.
- Those who are truly born of God should reflect God's nature.

3. Our Example Of Love 4:9-11 cf 3:16-17

v. 9 God is our example of what love truly is.

- God revealed His love for us when He gave up that which was nearest and dearest to Him for our sake.
 - ◆ True love is the opposite of selfishness and self-centeredness.
 - ◇ **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** 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.
 - ◆ Love is more than a feeling.

- ◇ **Peter Kreeft**- Next time you hear "All you need is luv," think of the captain of the Titanic singing it to his passengers. As for me, I'd rather have a lifeboat.
- ◇ **David Wilkerson** - Love is not only something you feel. It's something you do.
- ◆ True love involves sacrifice and giving.
- ◇ cf 3:17-18
- ◆ Love seeks to make (others) happy rather than to be happy. (Ralph Connor)

only begotten Son- unique, one of a kind

- cf Heb 11:17- Isaac as Abraham's only begotten son.

10 propitiation- that which satisfied His righteous judgment for our sins.

11 If God loved us this much, it is only right that we love one another.

4. The Source Of Love 4:12-13, 16-17a

True love is not natural to us.

- It is not selfish but self-sacrificing.

12 It is the natural result of God abiding in us. His love is then manifested through us.

- **7** This kind of love is from God.

13 Love is the evidence of the Spirit living us. cf Galatians 5:22

16-17a Abiding in love is the natural result of abiding in God.

- 17a** It is by abiding in God that love is perfected in us.

2 Peter 1:4 . . . He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature . . .

5. The Means Of Salvation 4:14-15

Salvation is not by loving, but by confessing Christ as the Son of God who came to take away the sin of the world.

- Recognizing that Jesus is both God and man.
- That He was sent to be the Savior of the world.
 - ♦ **1 Timothy 1:15** It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.
 - ♦ **Hebrews 7:25** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
 - ♦ **Hebrews 9:28** so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.
 - ♦ **Revelation 5:9b** . . . You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Salvation comes to those who confess Jesus as the Son of God who came to take away the sin of the world.

Salvation results in God abiding in us and we in God.

- **17a** The result of that abiding in God is that God's love is perfected us. cf v. 12

6. The Confidence of Love 4:17b-18

This perfected love gives evidence of our relationship with Christ.

Perfected love gives us confidence that we are saved.

Perfected love casts out fear of coming punishment.

- Not because we have become so good, but because it is an evidence that we have been truly saved.
- cf 3:14; 4:13

Those who love the brethren have assurance of eternal life.
It is also evidence to the unsaved.

- John 13:35

7. The Summary On Love 4:19-21

a. We love because He first loved us. v. 19

b. One who does not love his brother cannot love God. v. 20

- Our relationship with fellow Christians reveals the nature of our relationship with God.
 - ◆ One commentator noted that you can tell what a man's relations with God are by looking at his relations with his fellow men. If a man is at variance with his fellow men, if he is a quarrelsome, competitive, argumentative trouble making creature, he may be a diligent church attender, he may even be a church office-bearer, but he is not a man of God. If a man is distant from his fellow man, it is good proof that he is distant from God; if he is divided from his fellow men, he is divided from God.
 - ◇ If you can't get along with God's people, you aren't getting along with God.

c. The one who loves God should love his brother also. v. 21

- Is there a relationship you need to fix?
 - ◆ Marriage, family, fellow Christian.
 - ◇ Matthew 5:23-24
- Do you have confidence that if you were to die right now you would go to heaven?
 - ◆ **Revelation 20:15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- ◆ **Revelation 21:8** "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
- ◆ **Matthew 25:46** "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
- ◆ **John 3:15-18** so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. 16 "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. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- ◆ **John 3:36** "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
- ◆ **1 John 5:12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.