

BELOVED CHILD / Sunday, April 19, 2015

Unifying Topic: **BELIEVE GOD'S LOVE**

Lesson Text

I. The Source Of Love (1 John 4:13-16a)

II. God Is Love (1 John 4:16b-21)

III. The Triumph Of Love (1 John 5:1-5)

The Main Thought: Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him (1 John 5:1, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Community is built on unity and mutuality. What holds the members of a community together? The writer of First John says believers are made complete when as a community they abide in God's love and the Spirit of God's love abides in them.

Lesson Aim: To understand that faith and love are at the center of the Christian faith.

Life Aim: To comprehend what is required to live in unity in the Church and to show forth the love of Christ toward others.

HISTORY:

1 John 4:7-12 "Beloved" is how John starts many of his passages. He's telling the people of Ephesus that they are much loved. He does not want them to forget that! There were so many wrong ideas he wanted to correct. He wanted them to know the truth as he calls them "*dearly loved friends.*" Everyone believes love is important, but we usually think of it as a feeling, but, in reality, love is a choice and an action. Loving one another proves seven things:

1. that we are born of God and know God (vv.7-8).
2. that we see God's love, because He revealed His love by sending His only begotten Son showing us how to love one another (vv.9-11).
 - God saved mankind by giving us a Savior, His Son to die as our propitiation; appeasement—God's mercy and grace in action to put us in right relationship with Him.
 - Therefore, "*Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another.*" - It's our Demonstration.
3. that God's Spirit dwells within us growing stronger as we love one another (vv.12-13).
 - We cannot see God, because He is Spirit; "*No man hath seen God at any time...*" Jh.1:18. ¹What we can see is His effect. We cannot see the wind, but we can see what it can do. We cannot see electricity, but we can see the effect it produces. The effect of God is love.
 - God is only known by Love, only by His Spirit who dwells within the believers. Therefore, when a person honors God's Son by believing, God takes that person and puts His Spirit into the person, thereby maturing His love more and more in us.

LESSON:

1 John 4:13-16a The Source Of Love

4:13 **Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.** How do we know that we dwell in God and He in us? - By the power of the Holy Spirit whom the Father has given us. The Spirit bears witness within our spirit by His continuous relationship and we continue to trust and obey God's Word.

4:14 **And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.** Loving one another proves...

4. that our testimony and confession are true (vv.14-16). The apostles have seen and testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. We today know and testify by His Spirit. God's love for us was proven by the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus.

4:15 **Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.** By the Father sending the Son to be the Savior of the world, those who make confession and believe Jesus is the Son of God, God will dwell in him and he in God. Therefore, our confession brings the great promise.

4:16a **And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.** This all builds up to the fact that we have a great confession: known to us (by the Holy Spirit) and believed (by faith) the love God has in regard to us.

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/love-is-an-action/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

1 John 4:16b-21 God Is Love

4:16b God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Dwelling in God, who is Love will surely produce love in us. Three points to stress:

1. God is love.
2. Believers must love.
3. If we dwell in love, then we dwell in God and God dwells in us. God is joined to us and we to Him.

4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. Loving one another proves...

4. that God perfects our love, giving us boldness in the Day of Judgment (v.17).

A Day of Judgment is coming when all persons will be brought before the great Judge Himself. But note the most wonderful thing: we can be delivered from judgment. How? – By living a life of love. Perfect love is the love that has been perfected in us by God, to love others. If we allow love to live itself out through us, then we will have boldness in the Day of Judgment. Such love casts out fear, giving boldness in the Day of Judgment. The more we love, the more we grow; the more we grow, the more we become perfected in love. And the more we grow and become perfected in love, the more assurance and boldness we have about the future judgment. God will give us the assurance that we shall not be judged, but on the contrary, we shall be rewarded.

4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. Loving one another proves...

5. that God delivers us from fear (v.18).

- If we really love someone, there is no need to fear him.
- Perfect love casts out fear. When love grows, fear can't stay. The two are incompatible. Therefore, growing love fulfills perfect (complete) love.
- Because fear has torment, it shows that it thinks about and expects punishment or suffering or loss. A person feels that something is going to happen to him. Fear causes anxiety, dread, alarm, fright, panic, and terror.
- Fear means that a person is not perfected in love.
 - The person is not fully grasping the love and care of God for him.
 - The person is not loving other people like he should; not growing more and more in love. And fear can have our eyes upon self, not upon God.

We can resolve our fears first by focusing on His immeasurable love for us, then we can allow Him to love others through us.

4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. Loving one another proves...

6. that we love God (v.v.19-21). How do we know that we love God? There are three ways:

1. Because He first loved us. When Adam sinned, He loved us; when we were lost in sin, He loved us; before Jesus even went to the cross, He loved us, when Jesus was nailed to the cross, He loved us; when Jesus was beaten, He loved us; when Jesus died on the cross He loved us; and when He resurrected Jesus, surely He loved us, which meant we were able to be resurrected also. He has given us another chance. Hallelujah! From the beginning of the foundation of the world God so loved us!

4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? – We love God...

2. Because we do not hate our brother. If we love God, it is impossible to hold feelings against our brother. Why? – Because the Word says, 4:16b "God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." Therefore, if we have the nature of God in us, then we will also love our brother. John says we can't pretend to love our brother and still hate him. Love has to be practiced, especially on our brother.

4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. We love God...

3. Because we keep His commandment. What is His commandment? If we love God we are to love our brothers also. People say that they love God, well then the stipulation is that they will have to love his brother too. Mark 12:30-31 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your

mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

1 John 5:1-5 The Triumph Of Love

5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. How can we tell if we really believe in the only living and true God? This is the discussion of this last chapter of First John. We must be born of God? If we have been born of God, then we definitely have believed in God. God would not have given His divine nature to a person who does not believe in Him. Therefore, if we have the divine nature of God, if we have been truly born again, then we believe in God, and He is our living and true God. But how can we tell if we have been born of God?

1. The saved person believes Jesus is the Christ (5:1, 5).

- **believing Jesus is the Christ (v.1);** believes that Jesus is God's Son; God Incarnate; begotten of God; our Savior, then, in that belief, one is born of God. Being "*born of God*" means a spiritual birth, a rebirth of one's spirit, a new life, a renewed soul, a regenerated spirit. The new birth is so radical a change in a person's life that it can be described only as being born again. Something so wonderful happens to the soul that it is just like a new birth. It is a spiritual birth, a birth beyond the grasp of man's hands and efforts. It is so radical, so life-changing, and so wonderful that it can be wrought only by the love and power of God Himself!
 - The new birth is a necessity. A person will never see (Jh.3:3) nor ever enter (Jh.3:5) the Kingdom of God unless he is born again (Jh.3:7).
 - The new birth is a spiritual birth, the birth of a new power and spirit in our lives. It is not reformation of the old nature (Rom.6:6). It is the actual creation of a new birth within—spiritually.
 - By water, even the Spirit ▪ By the Will of God (Jam.1:18) ▪ By incorruptible seed, even by the Word of God (1 Pt.1:23) ▪ By God from above (1 Pt.1:3) ▪ By Christ who gives both the power and right to be born again (Jh.1:12-13).
 - The new birth is a definite experience, a real experience.
 - By believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (1 Jh.5:1) ▪ By the gospel as it is shared by believers (1 Cor.4:15; Phile.10) ▪ By the Word of God (1 Pt.1:23) or by the Word of Truth (Jam.1:18).
 - The new birth is a changed life, a totally new life. A person proves that he is born again...
 - By doing righteous acts (1 Jh.2:29) ▪ By not practicing sin (1Jh.3:9; 5:18) ▪ By loving other believers (1 Jh.4:7) etc.

A person who is "*born of God*" loves God; he can't help it! God just floods our hearts with His love, and others that are His children love him too.

5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

2. The saved person loves and obeys God (5:2-4).

- **Love God and others; obey His commandments (vv.1b-3).** The person who really believes God, really casts himself upon God and does what God says; depends upon God's Word and believes His Word works. The key is believing who God says He is, then you can love Him and obey Him.

5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. If we love God, this is not an optional commandment, obey God, then we can love one another. There is no other way to show God that we love Him, except by doing what He says. Some people think that God's commandments are grievous, burdensome; it restricts them, but the exact opposite is true, we have to remember that His love is rewarding.

- Jesus Christ gives rest to the soul.
- Jesus Christ never allows a trial or temptation to come upon a person beyond what the person can bear.
- Jesus Christ gives a person the greatest hope; the greatest promises of reward in all the world.
- God gives all true believers His Spirit, and the Spirit gives all the assurance that one could ever need.
- God gives the true believer fellowship with Himself and with Christ, and floods the heart of the believer with joy.

5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

- Overcomers are born of God and this victory that overcomes the world is our faith (vv.4). Being born of God has brought about a renewed soul; a regenerated spirit. Our victory over the world is our faith in Jesus Christ.

5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?—

- The person who overcomes the world is the person who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (vv.5).
 - That means that God gives the believer victory over all the trials and temptations of Life.
 - That means that God gives the believer victory over all the forces and difficulties of life.
 - That means God gives the believer victory over sin.
 - That means that God gives the believer victory over death.
 - That means that God gives the believer victory over judgment.
 - That means that God gives the believer victory over fear and despair and fills him with love, joy, and peace.
 - That means that God gives the believer victory over Satan and all other spiritual forces.
- 3. The saved person has his prayers answered (5:14-15).
- 4. The saved person does not live in continuous sin (5:18-21).

SUMMARY:

When we become Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit. God's presence in our lives is proof that we really belong to Him and gives us the power to love. We know and testify by God's Spirit that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world for He shows us how to love one another. Our confession allows Jesus to dwell in us and we in Him; believing at all times that God loves us (4:13-16a).

God is love and believers must love. If we dwell in love, for He dwells in us, then we dwell in God! "*As we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect and complete; so we will not be ashamed and embarrassed at the Day of Judgment, but can face Him with confidence and joy, because He loves us and we love him too.*" Fear is not an option, for perfect love casts out fear. Fear causes torment when it's not made perfect in love. God loved us first. If we see our brother everyday and yet hate him, but say we love God whom we haven't seen, we are liars, pretending to love our brother while hating him. As we are commanded, love your brother as you love God. Love has to be practiced, especially on our brother (4:16b-21).

Everyone that believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God. Then everyone who loves the Father loves the one who is born or Him—we are His children, begotten of Him. The proof comes when we keep His commandments and they are not troublesome; grievous. Those that are born of God overcome the world's ways. And that overcoming victory over the world's ways is our faith, believing that Jesus is the Son of God (5:1-5).