

## 1 John 4:1-12 Love Manifested

According to Jerome the early Church Historian –

A)When the Apostle John was in his old age and could no longer walk and he could barely speak

B)They would carry John to the gatherings of the church in Ephesus

C)John would be asked do you have a Word for us brother John

He would always respond the same way: Little Children Love one another

A) When asked why he always repeated this, John is said to have replied, "Because it is the Lord's commandment and if it alone is kept, it is sufficient

B)We have seen in our study of 1 John that this call to Love is definitely one of the themes of John's letter

C)Defining mark that we Know Jesus – In Jesus – Love God and Love one another

D)The title of the message today is Love Manifested

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In

this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. - Pray

**Intro: What is Love?** If you googled that back in 2012 there were 3.72 billion search results –

A)Lots of opinions on Love!

Lots of songs too!

B)The Billboard Hot 100 has been dominated by love songs for decades.

C)In fact, a study found that over 60% of pop songs are about love, relationships, or heartbreak.

D)Spotify and Apple Music have millions of love-related playlists, further proving love's central role in music.

Psalm 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes ... perfected praise

A)Kids have some great things to say about love.

Love is when my dad pretends to like my mommy's cooking even when it's really yucky." – Ben, age 6

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." – Chrissy, age 6

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, and then he wears it every day." – Noelle, age 7

Danny, age 7 - "Love is when you're supposed to be sleeping, but you just sit in bed and smile because you're thinking about someone." –

"Love is when my mom sees my dad all sweaty and smelly and still says he's handsomer than Brad Pitt." – Sophie, age 7

Here is a Word for someone today – Hit home

"Love is when you love someone so much, you let them have the remote even though you were there first." – Mia, age 8

Profound:

“Love is when your name is safe in someone’s mouth.” – Billy, age 4

**Here in 1 John 4 the Aged apostle gives us a great definition of Love!**

A)But before he gives this wonderful definition of love he gives A warning - Test the Spirits

B)If you were with us last week – we noted in V.19-24 John wanted us to have Confidence in Christ

C)The last thing we pointed out that he wanted us to experience was the confidence of the Spirit filled life

D)The defining Mark that we are walking in the Spirit and being led by the Spirit seen in how we love others

**But here is what we need to understand – being loving doesn’t mean being tolerant**

A)Being loving doesn’t mean that we just except everything as being true

B)John opens Chapter 4 with this word of admonition and Warning

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God

C)John is giving us permission to be intolerant – to test the spirits - because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

We live in a world – lot of messages – many mixed messages – and some can sound so good –

A)Oh that is So loving and accepting

B)But They are off – The error can be very subtle.

C)But if you are on a flight from San Diego to Maui

1)and the controls on the air craft are off just a ½ percent

D)Guess what you are going to be landing in the Pacific Ocean

So John tells us to test the Spirits.

A)Then he tells us exactly what to look for V.2-3

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh God in Human flesh is of God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess denies that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Now we have noted already in our study of 1 John

**A)That one of the heresies that crept into the early church was Gnosticism**

B)The Gnostics taught that everything Physical was evil – God is Spirit

So they denied that Jesus had a physical body – He was more of an Emanation

A)An Emanation is something that is abstract that originates from a source

B)The Source is God and Jesus was a series of Emanations

C)He was a spirit who didn’t really have a Physical body – he ate and drank but didn’t swallow

D)Walked but didn’t leave foot prints in the sand.

The problem with that definition was if Jesus wasn’t really human –

A)Then he couldn’t pay the price for our sins

B)He couldn’t be our High Priest who sympathizes with us.....

**C)Now In John’s day they were denying the Humanity of Jesus –**

**In our day People love to deny the Divinity of Jesus.**

A)There are plenty of books/articles out there today written about what a wonderful Human Jesus was –

B)Great teacher and great example - But what people Deny today about Jesus is his Deity –

1)He was not God in Human flesh

C)No he was just another great teacher and person like Ghandi and others

1)But he wasn’t sinless – he wasn’t God

D)His Word is NOT Supreme – he can be wrong on issues – but he is great example to follow

**John says Both are wrong and this is the Spirit of Anti-Christ**

A)The Spirit of Anti-Christ is one that Denies the Humanity and the Deity of Jesus  
5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

B)But we have this built in truth meter – The Holy Spirit 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

C)Notice V. 4 again  
4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Think of it this way- The walls of the submarines that descend two miles into below the surface of the Ocean

A)Are constructed of thick steel plates to withstand the tremendous pressure placed upon them.

B)But there are pictures taken from such heavily protected submarines  
1)That reveal fish swimming two miles below the surface of the water

C)with scales no thicker than that of any other fish. How can that be?

D)The answer is simple: The pressure on the inside of those fish is equal to the pressure of the water around them.

In a similar way that's the beauty of the Christian life. Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the World.

A)See Some people erect massive walls to insulate themselves from the attacks of the Enemy—

B)Problem is they become isolated from a world and people in the world that Jesus wants them to reach.

C)The Key to the Christian life is not in trying to see how far from the world you can keep yourself  
1))If that is your mentality – your Christian life will be characterized by do's and don'ts

**The Key to the Christian life is not is trying to see how far you can keep yourself from the world**

**A)They Key is in seeing how close to Jesus you can get! – Pursuing him With all your heart.**

B)Make that your aim and you will know how to Navigate the World.

C)Make that your aim and you will become attractive to people in the world who are searching for peace and purpose Joy – U have

Now After giving the Warning to test the Spirits –  
**A)John turns his attention back to the subject of love and gives this wonderful description V.7-12**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

B)I love Pastor Paul David Tripp's comments on this portion of scripture: "Redemption defines love for us. And the epicenter of that love is God's willingness to offer His own Son as a sacrifice that would atone for our sin" -Paul David Tripp

C)Propitiation means the Satisfaction for our sin – Jesus death on the cross Satisfies the Justice of God

D)He paid the price for our sins – our REDEMPTION

V.9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us,

**In the remainder of our time today -Consider how Love was Manifested: What does this Love look like**

**A)#1 Love that is marked by Commitment**

B)God committed himself to man and when man sinned and broke his law and broke his heart –  
1)he didn't abandon us

C)Think he could have done away with Adam and Eve – and started over or just resolved –  
1)We don't need man.

D)He was committed to see this thing through

## #2 It is a Pursuing Love –

A)After the Fall – God comes into the Garden – not as a Cosmic cop but as a heart broken father

B)Adam where are you – He is coming to fix would man had broken

C)Although the relationship would be different now that sin entered the world –

D)God brought made a way for Reconciliation to take place

1)Providing a Sacrifice

## #3 It is a Love that Sacrifices Willingly

A)When Jesus was looking ahead to the cross – he declared – John 10:18 <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.

B)True love always comes out of a willing heart, a heart that finds joy in the communication and the expression of love.

C)Who for the Joy set before him – he endured the Cross – Joy was you in God’s Family.

He willingly sacrificed himself for us.

A)Blind folded – beaten – who hit you

B)Back was ripped to shreds – Cat of nine tails –

1)Crown of thorns -

C)Unrecognizable as a man – beaten so badly

D)The Worst part – He experienced Separation from the Father – My God.....me

E)We want love that doesn’t require sacrifice-

1)but love that has no sacrifice attached to it is not love at all.

## #4 It is a Love that Loves the Underserving

A)The shocking thing about the cross is Jesus wasn't dying for His friends, He died for His enemies.

B)He died for rebels against His Lordship, for people who are too arrogant to confess the need of His grace.

C)Our tendency is to gravitate toward people who deserve our love – who are easy to love –

1)who return love quickly –

D)We don’t want to love people who are hard to love.

Yesterday we had a Memorial service for a gal named Chris York

A)A gal who had some mental health issues that got worse in her later years

B)If she wasn’t taking her meds – She could be really difficult.

C)But I was so blessed listening to the stories yesterday from her family of how greatly –

1)Chris was loved by this fellowship.

Jesus loved us when we were underserving of his love

A)when he could have easily written us off and damned us.

B)Back in my Youth Pastor days – a friend of mine – hard kid in his youth group – wanted to boot him.

C)Have you ever given God reason to boot you out of his family? Did he?

Nope! Pray for grace patience and wisdom

## #5 It is a Love that Provides Forgiveness

A)The epicenter of the cross is the forgiveness that it purchased.

B)The Cross provided the way – for the Justice of God to be satisfied

1)and sinners could receive forgiveness And Reconciliation

C)This is what John is pointing to when he says – this Love was manifested

Notice v.11 – Application – I will admit - what John says in V.11 – at first glance is SHOCKING Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**Consider that word ought in V.11 - immediately you think moral obligation--you ought to love;**

A)It's your moral obligation to love; you're commanded by your Lord, by the King, to love.

B) Problem is: I look at this description of Love that God manifested and I think – No way.....

C) I can't love like that - At least not consistently - Feel condemned – lost – discouraged

D) But understand this Word ought is not just a word of moral obligation but it is also a Word of design

1) A Word that has power attached to it

Examples: That Car ought to be Driven- It's design is not to sit in a garage it is to get out on the road.

A) Birds ought to Fly – Fish out to swim – Honey ought to be sweet

B) Things were created for a particular design –

C) You are not going to put your dog in the aquarium – Not it's design

1) You are not going to see your neighbor with a leash walking his fish

D) If you do run – something crazy has happened in the universe

There is a design within each creation that ought to be carried out

A) that is how the design fulfills its purpose.

B) The Bible says that you and I have been created in the image of God – that is our design

C) Means we have been created to live in relationships – to be loving because God is Love – he is highly relational

**But Sin messed up the design –**

A) Because of sin man has become less loving and more selfish – self-centered and focused

B) Instead of loving people we use people –

C) Instead of seeing how we can give to others – man pursues what he can take

1) Get himself ahead of others

D) That is the Sin nature of mankind as a whole- that is the world that we are living in

But we who have embraced Jesus – Lives touched by Jesus – saved by Jesus.

A) The Bible says – We have been born again – New Life – New Nature

B) New Creation – old things passed away –

C) We are His workmanship – masterpiece in the making –

1) being transformed to become more like Jesus

The grace of the cross is not just your forgiveness, it's your power; the cross is not just addressing your guilt, it's addressing your inability; the cross is meant to give you the potential to love in ways you couldn't have loved before you came to the Lord Jesus Christ. Be comforted; that God who is love now lives inside of you by His love to empower you to love. Paul David Tripp

C) Romans 5:5 The Love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit in us.

1) Poured into us in order to be poured out of us.

D) The More we grow in our relationship with Jesus the more loving we will become.

So We ought to be loving – Because it is our design as a new Creation in Christ.

A) When John says – if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**B) He is tapping into a very important NT principle – God's commandments are God's enablements**

C) Meaning God will never ask you to do something that he doesn't also give you the power to carry it out.

Great picture of this in Mark 3 –

A) Jesus is in the Synagogue one day and there is a man there with a withered hand.

Meaning it is all shriveled up – crippled

B) Jesus walks up to the man and says – Stretch forth your hand!

C) Now that guy could have got mad at Jesus –

1) accused Jesus of being insensitive in asking him to do something -It was obvious he could do.

But the guy somehow realized there was power in the command of Jesus

A)to do what He was asking him to do

B)There was Power in the command of Jesus to do what had previously been impossible

C)As he believed in the power of the Word of Jesus – and acted on it –

1)he was healed – as he moved in obedience and not before.

D)His hand wasn't restored and then he stretched it forth – it was healed as he acted to stretch it forth

1)Responding to the command and word of Jesus

Guys this is such an important thing for us to grab a hold of –

A)Jesus calls us to love others – love undeserving – love those hard to love

B)We often counter by saying Lord – you know how hurt I am –

1)Lord you know all my hang ups from my past

C)Lord change my heart and heal my heart and then I will love

**D)He says: No you walk in what I have called you to 1)believing that My commandments are my enablements**

As you move in that direction of obedience –

A)You are going to receive power to do what – you previously thought was impossible

B)As you move in that direction and experience my power –

1)you are also going to experience a heart Change

Give you a couple of practical examples of this principle

Maybe you are here today saying: I am really depressed –

A)I have been prayed for / I've read all the self-help books / followed all the techniques – to no avail

B)The Lord's word to you today is simply: 'Rejoice evermore... For this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus concerning you.' (I Thessalonians 5:16).

C)Now you can argue and give 101 reason why you can't do that – can't rejoice

1)Or you can say, 'If the Word tells me to rejoice evermore, I will now start rejoicing.'

**D)And in the very act of beginning to rejoice, you'll find reason & power to continue to rejoice.**

1)heart change is going to happen

Maybe your struggle is w/ bitterness& unforgiveness.

A)The Lord's word to you today is simply –

Ephesians 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

B)Now again you can come up with 1000 reasons why you can't do that – or shouldn't do that

1)Or you can say – if the word tells me to not be bitter and to forgive

C)God's commandments are God's enablements

1) Today I am going to stretch forth my withered hand and forgive – speak what is right

Now understand – it is that simple – but it is not easy

A)Our flesh rebels against this – that is why it is a daily practice –

B)Life Verse: Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in Spirit

1)to be poor in spirit is to realize you spiritual bankruptcy –

2)your utter dependency upon God for everything.

C)Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

◆ All of the resources of King Jesus are made available to those who regularly assume a posture of being poor in spirit.

There have been so many times in my life – where I have had to daily pray –

A)Lord I can't do this on my own – in my strength Help me – Your commandments .... Enablements

B)As I seek to walk in that direction – he meets me with his power and resources - PRAY DAILY

C)Where you say: Today Lord in your Power and in your strength – ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD –

1)I will do what you command me to do.

The Word says, ‘Husbands, love your wives,’  
(Ephesians 5:25).

A)Now you can argue – but Lord you don’t know my wife ‘You don’t know what we’ve been through,’

B)You can come up with a myriad of reasons why that is impossible and unreasonable request

C)Or you can say – Lord your word tells me to love my wife. So I will love my wife.’

D)And because you’re doing it, God will give you the power to carry it out.

Heart Change is the Result – Life change is the result – Changes in our relationships/ families/ is the result

A)Changes can happen in Communities – Note V.12

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

B)So many people in the world who haven’t seen God – they don’t know what God is like –

1)they have this misconception of God

**C)But as we learn to walk in Love – as we through the power of the Holy Spirit living in us –**

**1)learn to be what we OUGHT to be**

D)The World see’s God and is drawn to God in us. –  
Amen

Close: Don’t know Jesus – Far from Jesus

A)Jesus Was so committed to you – Loved you so deeply –

B)Pursued you in your sin – when you didn’t deserve it

1)We deserved DAMNATION – instead Love was Offered –

C)He Lovingly and willingly Sacrificed himself for your sins –

D)So that you could receive forgiveness and restoration

E)Open your heart today!- Ready?