

## 1 John 4:12-5:5 Perfect Love

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. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

**Big idea today: Where God's life is, His Love will be because love always follows the life of God.**

A) Those who Have God's life in them – will love others – because God is love!

B) This is what John means when he says V.12 If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit

**C) Now John says something in V.12-13 that is so astounding - Don't miss it – God abides in us!**

John uses this word Abide 6 times in V.12-16

A) To abide means to remain in Spiritual Oneness with Him

B) This is what John is getting at – those who Abide in God – God abides in them – Because his Spirit is in us.

C) If you are a follower of Jesus - The Spirit of the Living God is living in You!

1) How AMAZING IS THAT!

The idea of God dwelling in a Human life would have been such a foreign concept to the Jewish mind.

A) Tabernacle days of Moses – Let them make me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them.

Tent – Inner chamber - - HH

B) We read in Exodus 40 that when Moses dedicated the Tabernacle that the Glory of God came down and moved into it – filled it

C) Cloud rested above it – when the Cloud moved – it was time for Israel to back up and move.

D) Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by Night

God was among his people – but there was a distance

A) No one not even Moses could enter the Holy of Holies where the Shekinah dwelt

B) Only the HP – only on the Day of Atonement – One day out of the whole year

C) But Israel sinned against God – and the Glory of God departed from the Tabernacle

D) Later on during the Reign of Solomon. – Solomon built a Temple for God to come and dwell in

When it came time for the Temple to be dedicated 1 Kings 8 –

A) The Glory of the Lord once again came filled the temple.

B) Glory is the word – Kabod – so thick – the Priest could not minister in the Holy Place

C) Once again – Distance – Day of Atonement

D) Once again Israel rebelled against God – Glory of God departed from the temple

**Would the Glory ever return?**

A) Thru the Birth of Jesus God would do something new – The Apostle John put it this way in His Gospel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:1-5

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt [Tabernacled] among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

**The glory of God dwelt in earth in the body of Jesus Christ, for His body was the temple of God**

A)The Glory was concealed in his Humanity –

B)Peter James and John got a glimpse of it – MT of Transfiguration – Shinning like the sun

C)But John tells us here in John 1:14- His Glory was on display in his character – perfect blending of Grace and Truth

D)But wicked men nailed His body to a cross. They crucified “the Lord of glory.

E)But That was the Plan – Jesus would die for the sins of the World – pay the price – our redemption

1)Three days later Rose from the Grave – Life to all who believe

Notice John says in v.14 – This is our testimony

14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

**God abides in us by his Spirit in the hearts of those who Confess Jesus – put their trust in Jesus!**

A)ASTOUNDING CONCEPT The night before Jesus went to the cross – he said this to his disciples

<sup>15</sup>“If you love Me, keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:15-17

B)He would actually say in that same conversation in Ch.16:7 – It is to your advantage that I go away- for

if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. John 16:7

C)Advantage: Because when Jesus was alive on planet earth in his earthly body – he could only be in one place at a time.

D)But His Spirit could dwell in all of us – no matter where we are.

1)Our hearts become his Temple

<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Your Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit – So Glorify God in your Bodies

A)1 John 15- God is the most glorified when we bear fruit –

B)The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is Love!

16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

C)As we abide in Jesus – walk with Jesus – Remain in Jesus – his love is being perfected in us

1)NLT brought to full expression in us

Fantastic as it may seem, God’s love is not made perfect in angels, but in sinners saved by His grace.

A)We Christians are now the tabernacles and temples thru which God reveals His love.

B)Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, famous British preacher, had five sons, all of whom became ministers of the Gospel.

C)One day a visitor in their home dared to ask a personal question:

1)“Which of you six is the best preacher?”

Their united answer was, “Mother!”

Now, Mrs. Campbell Morgan had never preached a formal sermon in a church;

A)But her life was a constant sermon on the love of God.

B)So too The life of a Christian who abides in God's love is a potent witness for God in the world.

C)Men cannot see God, but they can see a full expression of his Love in us through deeds of helpfulness and kindness.

**Now this idea of God's Love being perfected in us – or brought to full expression in us - is a Process – Ongoing process**

A)What are the signs – that this is happening in us?

**B)In the remainder of our time today – Point out 4 signs that we are Maturing in Love**

1)God's Love being perfected in us -

**C)#1 We have boldness in the day of Judgment. V.17**

1)Boldness = confidence

D)Do you have confidence when you think about the day of Judgment?

The Bible says we will all stand before the Judgement seat of God

A)Does that excite you or terrify you?

B)If you are not a Christian – should terrify you – What did you do with my son? –

1)No Neutral ground – For me .... Me!

C)But If you are a Christian the judgment seat should excite you

1)It is something that we should be looking forward to – why ?

D)It is a Judgment of Rewards for us!

The secret to our confidence is found in this phrase - because as He is, so are we in this world.

A)Now we have seen already in our study in 1 John in Ch. 3 this hope when we see Jesus – we will be like him

B)Transformation will be complete

That is our Future: But here is V.17 this phrase because as He is, so are we in this world. – Speaks of our Present

A)As He is – so are we right now in this world

B)God looks at you – sees you in Christ – Righteous – Justified just as if you never sinned.

C)We have been accepted in the Beloved

Our Sin has already been Judged at Calvary

A)God is not going to Judge me for my sin – He sees me – you righteous in Christ

B)The Judgment for us who believe is not a Judgment of Condemnation –

1)it is Judgment of Rewards

C)Reward us for our Faithfulness - Reward us for sharing the gospel

D)Just One Series – God rewards those who plant the seed of the gospel – and those who water it –

1)As well as those who harvest it / lead a person to Christ

E)Paul calls it the Crown of rejoicing – Motivation to share your faith

1)Crowns or Rewards

Jesus said: God will reward all those who give a cup of water to a child in his name.

A)Motivation to get involved in CM – You don't even have to teach- just be in the Classroom – snacks – help crafts – Reward

B)How Cool is that? –

C)So those who are abiding in Jesus – who have their identity in Jesus who love Jesus –

1)They have this confidence – I Know who I am in the Lord

D)Confidence motivates them to walk with God and serve him

E)Confidence in the day of Judgment

What are the signs that God's love is being perfected in us?

**#2 Love Casts out fear.**

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.

A) Now this word for torment comes from a root word which can be translated to limit or to restrain,

B) What John is saying here is that fear imprisons us.

C) Now is that not true? Fear imprisons us. Anxieties, tensions, worries, apathy –

1) All these things are forms of fear, and they literally imprison us, they limit us.

People with Phobia's

A) Claustrophobia fear of tight spaces – Caves, Elevators even crowded rooms –

B) Their fear limits them

C) Aerophobia: - Fear of Flying – Fear limits them – they never go anywhere – have to fly

D) Agoraphobia – Fear of being in Public –

1) Fear causes them to isolate themselves in their homes

Fear does! It imprisons us, narrows us in, binds us up, limits our life, pushes us into corners and keeps us there.

A) We cannot live as God intended us to live.

B) Sometimes Fear of others opinions – cripple us from being used of God

1) Fear of REJECTION

C) But the Perfect love of God Cast out fear – frees us

**Now notice v.19 again this is the Key to this whole section on Love – We love Him because He first loved us.**

A) The Aged apostle John has been building this case – True believers love one another –

B) But here is what we have to understand and realize – We love him because he first loved us.

C) Our Love is a Response to His love for us –

1) Not Duty but Devotion

2) Not Ritual or Routine – but flowing out of a Relationship

D) The more that we come to understand his love – live in his love – rest in his love –

1) The more his love flows from us to others

Why when Paul was praying for the church in Ephesus – Praying you would come to understand – the width, length, depth, Height of God's love.

A) He called it a love that surpasses Knowledge –

B) SO deep, so wide, so long, so High – you can spend a life time looking into it and never fully grasp

1) HOW INCREDIBLY YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD!

C) In Romans 8 Paul assures us of the limitless of God's love by saying

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

D) The More that we abide in HIS LOVE – IT Frees us to be who we are meant to be in Jesus

What are the signs that God's love is being perfected in us?

- ◆ #1 We have Boldness in the Day of Judgment
- ◆ #2 Love Casts out fear.

**#3 GOD'S Love is being perfected when we have Joyful obedience**

<sup>20</sup> If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also. Ch 5 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, [His Child-his family] and everyone who loves Him who begot [Gave spiritual birth] also loves him who is begotten of Him. [His offspring]

<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

I have 3 kids – My kids deeply love each other – support each other – because we are family.

A) They are my wife and I's begotten – so there is a blood bond – that they share.

B) We have 4 grandkids and one on the way. – Our Grandkids – love each other –

1) There is a bond – instinctive

C) John is saying: We who are in Christ – Blood bond – the blood of Jesus connects us – We love each other

1) We love God – We love his Kids –

Now have my kids ever been mad at each other –

A) Oh Yes.

B) Ever been frustrated – Yes – but it doesn't last – they don't stay MAD

1) there is MORE GRACE because – they are connected blood related.

C) Now I know that is not true of all families

1) families live estranged from one another sad. – Sign of our Human frailty – brokenness

But What John wants us to understand is if there is a Family where that should not be the case –

A) It is the family of God

B) Because we have a love in us that goes beyond Human love – The Love of God –

C) We have the Spirit of God – the grace of God

**The more we understand his Love – the more we want to walk in it**

A) We want to Keep his commandments – His commandments are not burdensome

B) Not a Duty – they become a DELIGHT

C) The Psalmist in Psalm 119

- “O how love I Thy Law!” (Ps. 119:97)
- He rejoices in the Law (Ps. 119:14, 162)
- He delights in it (Ps. 119:16, 24)
- It is honey to his taste (Ps. 119:103)

D) He turns them into songs - “Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage” (Ps. 119:54).

Turn *statutes* into *songs*.

A) Imagine your teen ager – taking your house rules and putting them to music –

NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN –

B) But this is the way the psalmist looked at God's Law.

C) When we understand how deeply the Lord loves us

1) We realize his commands are meant to protect us and free us - Not Harm us and stifle us.

I don't like it when I am going somewhere and I am in a hurry and I hit every Red Light – Frustrating

A) But in General I really like Red Lights – especially when my light is green and yours is Red.

B) Our intersections would be a chaotic danger zone without them

1) They Protect us – for our benefit

So too when I understand the nature of God's love and Grace –

A) His commandments are not burdensome – lean in

B) My Perfect heavenly father loves me and wants what is best for me!

God's Love is being perfected in us – we are maturing in our understanding of his love

A) When we lean into his commandments – seeking to keep his commands

B) Flow from the heart of our Amazing heavenly father!

**Finally #4 A Sign that God's Love is being perfected in us is when we are walking in Victory**

<sup>4</sup>For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. (OVERCOMERS) And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

A) Easy Greek word to remember today – Share this Verse with someone tomorrow – Ready? –

1) Nike = Victory

B) We who are born of God are Overcomers – We can overcome anything that this world throws at us

C)Not because of who we are – but because of our faith and trust in who is in us.

1 John 4:4 - <sup>4</sup>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.

D)Jesus said in John 16:33 <sup>33</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

**We don't fight for Victory but from a position of Victory because Jesus has already won the War**

A)So God in us is not just about Presence, it is about Power!

<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

B)So a Sign that his love is being perfected in you or that you are maturing in your understanding of his love

1)When you are walking in Victory – overcoming temptation – Standing Strong in the battle

C)My God loves me – My God has me – I am in Him and He is in me!

Nothing to fear!

A)There is freedom in that – Joy in that – Confidence in that

B)Let's go for it – Lets RUN HARD AND STRONG

C)LET'S BE ALL IN – OUR GOOD IS SO GOOD

Pray: Do You Know God today? Living in his Love - In a Relationship – open your heart

Prodigal – Come home – stop listening to the lies – come home

Christian – Crippled by fear: Failure – Rejection

Fear of if you really knew? – Rejected

A)Perfect love Casts out fear

B)Fear of stepping out to be used – I am going to get hurt –

C)Let go of that today – Fellowship of his suffering