

FIRST JOHN STUDY

CHAPTER 4:12-21

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WN-293 JUNE 21, 2000

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"What's Love Got to Do With It?" – Part 1

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

1 John 1:3

"That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Fellowship, Love, God is Love, Christianity

INTRODUCTION:

The Reading of the Text

vv. 12-21

1) God's love is an active love

vv. 12-16

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.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

1) Love allows us to see God's invisible nature

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.

God, who is invisible, can only be seen by others through our love for each other. This visible love is revealed to the world by God "abiding in us" and His love being "acted out" through us.

No one has seen God at any time

In the Greek the meaning is this;
That no created thing has ever seen God in his totality or absoluteness

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Hebrews 12:29

For our God is a consuming fire.

The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

No Human and No Angel

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

I John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

If we **love one another**,
God **abides in us**, and His love has been **perfected in us**.

Love allows us to see God's invisible nature

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1 Corinthians 12:25

that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

2) *Love confirms to us that He lives in us*

13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us,
because He has given us of His Spirit

We can be sure,
That we belong to God because we possess the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. The Lord has put his mark, seal, upon us as a guarantee that we are his property.

"We abide in Him, and He in us"

He has given us of His Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Given

To make a deposit or a pledge. To install or to make an agreement

Ezekiel 36:26-27

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you

What's Love Got To Do With It?

3) *Love convinces us that Jesus is the Savior*

14 And we have **seen** and **testify** that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

We've already received the truth,
That Jesus is the only savior of mankind and that causes us to love the world with the love of God because Jesus died for them all.

Seeing and testifying

John 21:24

This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

I John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

4) *Love unites us together with the Trinity of God*

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

The Christian literally,
A Christian is one who is living a constant life that includes God at all times. A Christian knows and believes that Jesus is God's unique Son and that they are in agreement.

Whosoever

{The whosoever statements of scripture}

Hebrews 3:15

While it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your heart..

God the Father / Jesus is the Son / Holy Spirit

Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve **the living God?**

What's Love Got To Do With It?

5) *Love comforts us to know that we are His*

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.

Every Christian can receive

His comfort Because God has set His love upon us in a very powerful way. We need to realize how much he loves us at all times.

John 15:9

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide (continue on) in My love.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

2) *God's love is a powerful love*

vv. 17-18

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.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

6) *Love makes us bold and daring in this world*

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.

Because He loves us,

with a total and complete love there is nothing for us to be nervous about especially on the day of judgement. This boldness causes us to be as confident in this world as Jesus was.

John 15:13

"Greater (bold) love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

7) *Love overpowers all of our fears*

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.

When we believe that God

Really does love us, then nothing can conquer us or defeat us because we are the object of His love. When we do not believe in Him, then we are fearful, timid and unproductive.

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.

Psalm 16:11

...Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

When We Arrive There

What's Love Got To Do With It?

3) *God's love is a creative love*

vv. 19-20

19 We love Him because He first loved us. 20 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?

What's Love Got To Do With It?

8) *Love originates with God alone*

We love Him because He first loved us.

We cannot take any credit

at all for having loved God because He not only loved us first but He loved us the best, from the beginning.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

9) *Love reaches out beyond our boundaries*

20 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?

The Christian would never become

An island isolated from the world. The heart of the believer is to love others as if the other were God standing before them.

What's Love Got To Do With It?

4) *God's love is a motivating love*

vv. 21

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

What's Love Got To Do With It ?

10) *Love compels us to love our brothers*

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God **must love** his brother also.

We must love

(It's in our new blood now)

John 17:21

"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ compels us..

I John 3:17-18

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

What's love got to do with it?

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