

THE POWER OF PERFECT LOVE

I John 4:17-21

Introduction:

- A. John has experienced the love of God. vs. 11
 - 1. "we have known."
 - 2. "we have believed."

- B. John had reached a place of mature Godly love.
 - 1. "dwelleth in God."
 - 2. "God dwelleth in him."
 - 3. The attribute of God that we can have that makes us like God. "God is love."

- C. This is called, "Perfect love." vs. 17
 - 1. perfect = to complete, to bring to a full end.
 - 2. The bloom, the immature fruit, the fruit.

I . PERFECT LOVE GIVES BOLDNESS AT JUDGMENT. VS. 17 a

- A. There will be a judgment!
 - 1. Acts 17:30-31
 - 2. John 5:22

- B. Some will be ashamed.
 - 1. 2:28
 - 2. "ashamed"

- C. Perfect love will allow boldness.
 - 1. boldness = saying one's mind.
 - a. Political = The full citizen of a Greek city had the right to say anything at an ekklesia. Aliens and slaves had no such right.
 - b. personal (friends) = It serves the truth and therefore could offer criticism. Socrates had it.

- c. as an attribute = Antisthenes gave Diogenes, wisdom, power, truth, and "parresian".
- d. prayer = this is why we can say, "Father."
- e. Why we can be called the "sons of God." 3:1

II. PERFECT LOVE EMPOWERS US TO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY IN THIS WORLD. VS. 17a

- A. "because as he is, so are we in this world."
 - 1. We are in the world like Jesus was in the world.
 - 2. He was God's representative.
- B. Don't be surprised of what happens.
 - 1. God has ordained that we do good works.
 - 2. The world will not be receptive.
 - 3. The godly life will cost us.

III. PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR VS. 18

- A. The subject is mature love.
 - 1. The end product of love is not fear.
 - 2. "there is no fear in love."
- B. "but perfect love casteth out fear."
 - 1. Perfect = mature.
 - 2. casteth = to throw, to fall, to tumble.
- C. "because fear hath torments."
 - 1. torments = a pruning, a cutting.
 - 2. "fear implies punishment."
- D. Fear of rejection and punishment is a sign that love is not perfect.
 - 1. "He that feareth is not made perfect in love."
 - 2. Fear is an indication that something is amiss.

IV. PERFECT LOVE IS RECIPROCAL LOVE

- A. "we love him."
 - 1. A statement of fact.
 - 2. Do you love God?

- B. "because he first loved us."
 - 1. The basis of our love.
 - 2. He loved us.

V. PERFECT LOVE, LOVES THE PRODUCT OF GOD. VS. 20, 21

- A. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar."
 - 1. "If a man say" the object of the letter.
 - 2. Love and hate do not come from the same fountain.

- B. "for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"
 - 1. We are more apt to love the seen.
 - 2. Our nature may have its doubts.

- C. The commandment we have.
 - 1. "And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also."

VI. PERFECT LOVE IS A PERFORMING LOVE

- A. Things perfect love does.
 - 1. It has fellowship. 1:6.
 - 2. It walks in the light. 1:7
 - 3. It confesses its sins. 1:9
 - 4. It keeps His commandments. 2:5
 - 5. It loves his brother. 2:10
 - 6. It loves not the world. 2:15
 - 7. It abhors antichrist. 2:18
 - 8. It knows the truth. 2:21
 - 9. It does righteousness. 2:29.

10. It lays down its life for
a brother. 3:10.
11. It loves in deed and truth. 3:18.
12. It tries the spirits. 4:1.
13. It abides in God. 3:24.
14. It prays for a brother. 5:16.
15. It keeps us from idols. 5:21.