

HHBC



1st John 4: 17-19

God is Love

[Part 1]



I John 4: 7-19

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so 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 is 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 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Today's Verses:

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and one who fears is not perfected in love. **19** We love, because He first loved us.

1st John 4: 17

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By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

By This:

by what? ... by what “is love perfected with us?”

Is it?: Vs. 11-12's : *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 is perfected in us*

The immediate context is Vs. 14-16's: *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him*

Therefore: By our confession of Jesus and His Work, God is free to abide us and we in Him; He bids us only to REMAIN where we were placed: IN HIS LOVE

1st John 4: 17

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By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Love is perfected in us. . . . :

Love, of course, all along in John's letter: *agapē* and has as its source, God's own essence.

"**Love**": occurs 26 times in 15 verses (1 Jn 7-21): bonus question: what is our subject

Meaning of 'Perfected' = *teleioō* (perfect tense; passive; indicative); To end, complete

- Same usage as: *I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.* Jn 17:23
- *to me was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me (to keep me from exalting myself!) and I asked 3x that it be removed (paraph): **And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected (pres/passive) in weakness."** Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 2 cor. 12:7-9*
- Ended, complete, finished, brought to a close; so God's love is one that has reached it's end, finished, completed and closed-out; when we Abide in Him; and He in us and His Love abides

1st John 4: 17

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By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Love is perfected in us. . . . :

Question: Why is love ended; complete; brought to a close?

Observations: *“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.”* v. 10— and verse 14’s: *We have seen and testify **that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.***

A: God sent His only begotten Son into the world to save it and us; that is complete thing; there is nothing in the universe that can be added to that work, which was a demonstration of His love

- Heb. 10:14- *For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [teleioō]* (Vb;perfect (as well);act;ind)
- *Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!”** And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Jn 19:31 **teleō!** [perfect! tense; passive; indicative]*

1st John 4: 17

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By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Love is perfected in us. . . . :

Principle:

The Perfected (finished-out; completed; reaching its end) love is **demonstrated** by the perfected, finished WORK of the Cross

FROM JOHN 3:16:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. . .

Is being expanded on in 1st John 4: 7-19 as: *For God loved the world **hoytō** (adv.) [in this manner].* He gave His son over to crucified on the cross for us, and for God's propitiation of sin (Jn 4:10)

Paul says it thusly:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5:8

1st John 4: 17

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By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

So that we may have confidence in the day of judgment :

Why does John out of the blue bring up the day of judgment here?

A: John has addressed **‘the world’** in 16 verses previously, so he is re-connecting ‘do not love the world nor the things in the world’ and ‘the world is passing away and also its lusts’, etc. (more passages) to JUDGMENT of the world. JUST AS Christ Himself spoke many times about in John’s gospel account:

- *“For God did not send the Son into the world to **judge** the **world**, but that the world might be saved through Him.*
- *“This is the **judgment**, that the Light has come into the **world**, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (John 3: 17 and 19 above)*
- *“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all **judgment** to the Son (5:22)*
- *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into **judgment**, but has passed out of death into life. (5:24)*
- *“And He, when (the Holy Spirit) comes, will convict the **world** concerning sin and righteousness and **judgment**; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.(16:8; 11)*

‘Confidence’: meaning **free and fearless confidence (or speech), cheerful courage, boldness, assurance** before the Judge! *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.”* Heb 4:16

1st John 4: 17

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By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Because as He is, so are we in this world:

So how is He to this world?

Rejected!

”The disciples left all to follow Jesus with the Kingdom in prospect. They looked for righteousness to be established here and were much occupied with the thought of how they would stand in the new order of things. But instead of righteousness being established here (on earth) the Righteous One was rejected: the Lord was crucified.” C. AUSTIN COATES: ‘SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS; LOVED UNTO THE END’, P. 86

.... “As to the world, the **disciples had lost everything and gained nothing**, but to compensate for this they got **divine love**.” COATES

Also, in this world, He was Crucified!

As was He; so are We: *But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* [Gal. 6:14]

1st John 4: 18

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There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and one who fears is not perfected in love.

With the groundwork done on Verse 17: Verse 18 becomes simple in its interpretation

fear = *phobos* = terror

Is not the statement: '*There is no fear (in God's) love*' a self-evident truth; patently obvious?

Perfect love casts out all fear/ 'terror'

To cast = *ballō*. To throw out (with a destination in mind) as in Rev. 12:9: *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

Because fear involves punishment

Our context is the coming judgment day where the world will be judged, and this judgment **involves** (*echo*) (comprises or holds as a consequence): punishment, and judgment leads to fear. Recall from Verse 17- we have confidence (*fearless speech, cheerful courage...*) in the day of judgment

1st John 4: 18

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There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and one who fears is not perfected in love.

Interpretation: One who is terrorized by the coming judgment resulting in punishment is not completed/ended/finished out in God's Love; as he is left outside the sphere of abiding in God and His love; he remains in the world which is to be judged, and this is a fearful thing. The Tribulation period will be a terrifying thing.

Our Grounding is in God & God's perfected love (positionally)

vs. one who fears and is not perfected/completed/ended/finished out in His Love:

Is aptly stated by Paul:

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" Rom 8:15



1st John 4: 19

We love, because He first loved us.

“Because He first loved us”

C.A. Coates again:

“Jesus came from God into a world of sin, of man’s ruin, of Satan’s triumph, and of God’s grief and dishonor; and He has secured everything for God; so that He could go back to God as the One who has removed every hinderance to the full display and triumph of **divine Love**.

Let us seek to enter into what that death was **for God**, and into the wonderful blessings of divine love for which it opens the way according to the counsel and purpose of the heart **of God**.”

Coates then looks at God’s divine love from John 10:11 and 10:27-30:

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.... My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”



1st John 4: 19

We love, because He first loved us.

“Because He first loved us”

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.... My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

Coates says we rightly look at this as God’s divine blessing secured to us, and from our perspective— no one will snatch us from His hand... And that is good news for us.... We are secure.

But from Divine viewpoint:

“The Good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep ***that He might have the joy of securing them for Himself and for the Father....***

The Father and the Son wanted to keep the sheep for themselves, and the death of Christ is the righteous title of **divine love** to take possession, and to keep possession of them. The Father and Son wanted a company whom they might introduce to (their) **circle of divine love**, with a nature suitable to that circle, and capable of appreciating and responding to it.

The right to have such a company (*ones born of God- 1 Jn 4:7; we in Him and He in us v.16*) has been secured to God by Jesus, and none of those who compose it will ever be lost.”

C. ANDREW COATES: ‘SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS; LOVED UNTO THE END’; P. 88: VILLAFIELD PRESS, BISHOPBRIGGS, GLASGOW