

1 John Class Outline



7/10/2022	Chapter 3: v 13-15	Practice of Love vs. Hatred
7/17/2022	Chapter 3: v 16-18	How We Know Christ's Love
7/24/2022	Chapter 3: v 19-22	Confidence Before God
7/31/2022	Chapter 3: v 23-24	Union with Christ
8/7/2022	Chapter 4: v 1-3	Spirit of Truth vs. the Spirit of Error part 1
8/14/2022	Chapter 4: v 4-6	Spirit of Truth vs. the Spirit of Error part 2
8/21/2022	Chapter 4: v 7-10	Let Us Love One Another
8/28/2022	Chapter 4: v 11-13	Redeeming Love part 1
9/4/2022	Chapter 4: v 14-16	Redeeming Love part 2
9/11/2022	Chapter 4: v 17-19	God Is Love part 1
9/18/2022	Chapter 4: v 20-21	God Is Love part 2

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1 John 4:11 -13



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.

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¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

beloved – divinely loved ones – six times in 1 John

if – assumed to be true – lit: since

God so loved us

verb – loved - *agapaō* corresponds to the noun *agapē* and is modified by “so”

so - *houtō* - which means in this manner or in this way

- since aorist looks at an event we can say: McCalley
- God loved us “in a particular event” and “in a particular way.”
- 1 John 3:16a We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us.
- The focus here is in the way in which He loved us.



Aorist,
Indicative,
Active

3

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

we [believers] also ought to love one another

also - *kai* - it precedes the word which it stresses

verb = ought – *opheilō* – “to owe,” is translated “ought” with various personal pronouns

Vine's

- God's actions towards us is to motivate us in our actions toward one another. McCalley
- Since God only operates under grace - this is part of the “life of Christ” in us.

to love one another

- This expression occurs 5 times in 1 John.
- The idea is - to be constantly loving one another since “to love” is in the present tense.



Present,
Indicative,
Active

4

“love one another” in 1 John



1 John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should **love one another**.

1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, just as He commanded us.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us **love one another**, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to **love one another**.

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we **love one another**, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

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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.



What does this mean?

- Man saw God the Son while on earth.
- John 14:9 Jesus said to him [Philip] --- He who has seen Me has seen [*horao*] the Father ---.
- This must be something that God has not revealed to man or cannot be revealed to man.
- The particular word for "seen" here is *theaomai*, "to behold, look upon, view attentively, contemplate.*"
- The word "God" is without the article, indicating that character, essence, or nature is stressed.*
- **Seen** is a perfect tense verb – a permanent state!
- * Wuest: God in His essence no one has ever yet beheld, with the result that no one has the capacity to behold Him.

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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.



if – if and we probably will (3rd class)

we love one another

What must be taking place as we love one another?

- Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- The remainder of the verse tells us what is going on in the believer's life as he is loving one another.
- This is in contrast to our not being able to behold God's essence.

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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.



As we "walk by the Spirit" the following is going on:

1st - God abides in us

abides - *meno* - continue, remain, dwell

- Whenever we love one another we make it possible for God to "abide" in close fellowship with us. Constable
- God's love can be seen as we love one another.

2nd - His love is perfected in us

- This love which is uniquely His own, which answers to His nature [is in view]. Vincent

Perfect,
Passive
Participle

- **perfected** - *teleiōō* - To complete, make perfect by reaching the intended goal.

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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.



More on God's love being perfected:*

- There are three stages of God's love in 1 John.
- love manifested to the world (4:9b) - God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him
- love given to the family of God (3:1a) - See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God.
- love perfected in a smaller group within this family (i.e., those who abide in God, 4:12)
- The love of God does not reach perfection until it finds objects of love beyond itself.
- When it does, God, whom no one has seen, will be visible in this manifestation of love.

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



- Expanded version of ^{3:24b} We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

by [in] **this** – by what we have received of the Holy Spirit

Present,
Indicative,
Active

we know - *ginōskō* - to be taking in knowledge; the know of experience

lit: we presently know this by experience

next we are told two things that we know:

1st - that we abide in Him

abide – *meno* - continue, remain, dwell

- note: this abiding is in a person – Christ
- this is as we walk by faith

Present,
Indicative,
Active

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



2nd - He [abides] in us

- In verse 12 we saw that “Christ abiding in us” is linked to loving one another.
- From 1 John 3:24a it is keeping His commandments.
- 1 John 3:24a The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.
- **keep** is “tereo” – to observe, to watch, to keep the eyes fixed upon
- Christ’s life abiding in us is the only way we can keep His commands.
- Gal 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

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



because – *hoti* – this is the reason we have this abiding relationship

Perfect,
Indicative,
Active

He has given – *didōmi* - to give, bestow upon

- Spoken of God or of Christ as the author or source of what one has or receives. Vine’s

us of His Spirit

of – *ek* – out of

- The idea is “out of the Spirit as a source.”
- The focus here is not the giving of the Holy Spirit but on what proceeds from the Spirit.
- What proceeds from the Spirit is “the fruit of the Spirit,” “spiritual gifts,” and many other blessings.

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Final Thoughts *



- God's love for us is perfected only when it is reproduced in us or (as it may mean) “among us” in the Christian fellowship.
- The same phenomenon occurs in human families. When a child says or does something just like one of his or her parents, we see the parent in the child's behavior.
- The love of God displayed in His people is the strongest apologetic that God has in the world.

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