

Love Made New
Love, Fear, and Judgment
1 John 4:13-21
September 4

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 his 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](#)So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. [17](#)By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for 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. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. [19](#)We love because he first loved us. [20](#)If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21](#)And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Know the Foundation

1. Discuss the confessional foundation that John has provided in 1 John 4. (The gift of His Spirit, Confession that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, Confession that Jesus is the Son of God, God is Love and we must love one another.) Why is it important for us to know this foundation?
2. Discuss why John included two confessions about Jesus. (One about Jesus coming in the flesh, and one about Jesus being the Son of God.) Why is it important to understand both the Divine and Human nature of Jesus?
3. Discuss the nature and mission of the Trinity as John describes it in 1 John 4:13-16. How does knowing the mission of God keep us focused?

Love Drives out Fear

4. Discuss why John is focused on Judgment as the moment of confidence? Use 1 John 4:17 and Revelation 6:12-17 as guides.
5. John states that “By this is love perfected with us” and that “perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment.” (1 John 4:17-18) Discuss how God’s perfect love frees us from the fear of punishment and what this should look like in our daily lives.
6. Discuss why putting our faith in something other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ leads to anxiety and fear.

Work on the Visible (and the invisible will move)

7. Discuss how, through spiritual rebirth (salvation), Jesus gives a person a new capacity and desire to love. Use 1 John 4:19 as a guide.
8. Using 1 John 4:20 and James 2:26 as guides, discuss how the love we have received will show itself in acts of love and compassion in this life.
9. What small steps is God calling you to take to “work on the visible” this week?