

May 29, 2022

“God is Love”

I John 4:7-21

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“Emulation of the Example” (vv. 7-10)

I. Introduction

A. Proofs (vv. 1-6) — Review

1. The tests we can use to discern the spirits
 - a) The warning against wrong spirits and false prophets
 - b) The confession test: Is Jesus Christ come in the flesh?
 - c) Thereby we can know the spirit of the world or the Spirit of God
 - d) The Spirit of truth or the spirit of error
2. And here we will see another proof of sorts

B. Passion

1. Yet again we see the topic of love emerge
2. We see old points reviewed and new points presented
3. Emphasis: _____ of love
4. We will see as we cover this section God’s love _____ His people

5. Another test to try the spirits and how it involves this love

II. Reinforcement (vv. 7-8)

A. A Request

1. To whom? _____

a) Those loved by God

b) Those who have acknowledged His love for them and trusted Him

2. Let us love

a) A request, and one of inclusive encouragement

b) “Let us”

c) Love that does more than _____; Love that _____ (3:18)

d) Love one another

(1) Before the world

(2) Direct our energy in loving the brethren

B. Reason

1. We’ve seen the practical application of Love

a) The command

b) How to and how to not perform it: Cain or Christ?

c) How we respond when we see a need

d) Showing our love by obedience

e) Where Christ-like love starts: Salvation

2. Now we see the What and the Why:

a) Many times this word *of* is used to denote the product of generation or the means of generation

b) For example:

(1) Matthew 1:5

(2) John 8:44

c) The same applies here: God is the very originator, or generator, of love; As Creator God,

He _____ it

d) So what are these verse saying?:

No God, no love;

Know God, know love

e) This love is given as a _____ of one who has been born into God's Family

f) Not just evidence though of one who has been born of God, i.e. born again, or _____ as we often call it

g) It is also evidence of one who is actually growing in that knowledge and love of God

3. If love though is not our true _____ in our daily actions, we don't truly know Him

- a) Now based on the previous verse, this does not mean necessarily that we aren't "born of God"
- b) That could be the meaning of "know": salvation (Matthew 7:23)
- c) It could also be someone who has not invested time in their relationship with their Lord
- d) Failure to love?:
 - (1) We don't truly know Him as our _____
 - (2) We haven't taken the time to know Him as our _____

C. Reality (of love)

- 1. God *is* love
- 2. Next level
 - a) As if "love is of God" wasn't enough
 - b) God is very love personified
 - c) Christ was/is love embodied
 - d) Again, No God, no love

III. Revelation (vv. 9-10)

A. God's love to mankind

- 1. Later: How God intends to manifest His love through His church to a dying world
- 2. There is an order
- 3. He has _____ His redeeming love

4. The theme of all of Scripture: John 3:16-17
5. He sent His son into the world that we might live through Him

B. _____ Love (v. 10)

1. True Bible love
2. Romans 5:6-8
3. We were destitute and lost in our sins
4. The _____ of God by nature
5. Yet, He loved us (2 Corinthians 5:21)

C. Appropriate response:

1. How has He shown us His Love?
2. _____ Love — Titus 2:14.
3. _____ Love — 1 Peter 2:22-23
4. _____ Love — Philippians 2:8.
5. I Corinthians 13 Description:
 - a) Longsuffering
 - b) Kind
 - c) Not Envious
 - d) Humble
 - e) Well-behaved
 - f) “Others first”
 - g) Unprovoked
 - h) Unsuspicious
 - i) Truth-promoting

- j) Patient
- k) Trusting
- l) Hopeful
- m) Enduring

D. So then, let us find ways in which to emulate our Example: the Lord
Jesus Christ

