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“God is Love”

I John 4:7-21

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“Courageous Compassion” (vv. 17-21)

I. Introduction

A. Review

1. Some things we’ve seen in this chapter:
2. Don’t believe everything you encounter; The believer is to try the spirits
3. We saw some tests and ways to know the spirits
4. Truth from error; God from Satan; right from wrong
5. One test has been our primary focus: Love
6. Love is of God for God *is* love!
7. Therefore, those who show Christ-like love are of God
8. Not only should we show Christ-like love in the church . . .
9. We should be showing Christ-like love to a sinful world
10. A world that otherwise may never know anything of God’s love

B. Strength in love

1. What does that love look like:
 - a) Love towards our brethren
 - b) Loving a wicked world
2. We are to emulate Christ’s example; we are to manifest God’s love
3. But how do we do that and why?
4. We will see the answers together from God’s Word

5. Courageous Compassion

II. Courage (vv. 17-18)

A. Love made _____

1. We've seen a great deal about love already
2. Here we have described a perfect love
 - a) Rather a love that is made perfect
 - b) That is: *full or complete; having need of*

 - c) This is what we see throughout the Bible and this study (v. 16)
 - d) Christ + _____ = salvation
 - e) The complete and perfect love of Christ produces a complete and perfect love within the believer
 - f) Thus, we can have confidence and boldness
 - g) Not arrogance, but the knowledge that all is forgiven and our debt is paid
 - h) Romans 10:11.
3. As He is perfect
 - a) The last part of this verse speaks of the _____ of Christ
 - b) We have a full and complete salvation because He was the only perfect and complete sacrifice
 - c) Anything else is an insufficient salvation which makes it *not* salvation
 - d) But Christ and Christ alone is sufficient:
 - (1) John 1:29.
 - (2) 1 Peter 2:21-24.

(3) John 19:30.

(4) Ephesians 2:8-9.

4. As He was and is a sufficient Saviour, we are sufficiently saved and sealed
5. We also are His body and representatives to preach this good news!
6. Ephesians 4:11-12.

B. _____ love (v. 18)

1. This perfect love produces something astounding
2. Something that ties in with the previous verse and boldness in Christ
3. Here we see that Christ-like love knows no fear
4. We see that “there is no fear in love”
5. However, as people, we will always have fear within us
6. It’s been said that courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the mastery of it
7. Christ’s love:
 - a) Knows no fear
 - b) Knows no limits
 - c) Knows no retreat or regret
8. His love is the ultimate _____ of fear: “Perfect love casteth out fear”
9. We see what the natural result of fear is: torment
10. He goes with us in our service for Him: Matthew 28:18-20
11. He’s secured us so that nothing spiritual can so much as touch us: Romans 8:35-39
12. Fear is a sign
 - a) If you fear death

- b) If you fear judgment
- c) If you fear the wicked world around us
- d) It is a sign of one of two things:
 - (1) Backsliding
 - (2) Need to be saved

III. Charity (v. 19)

A. The _____ of God's love to us and of our love to Him

B. A brief summation and reason

C. The saved

1. If you know Christ as Saviour, no doubt you love Him
2. But it was not a love that came naturally
3. Romans 3:10-12.
4. Rather it was His great love that was first shown to wicked mankind
5. We did not pursue _____, but rather God sought us out

6. Titus 3:3-4.
7. Romans 5:5-11.

D. Christ was bold and fearless for us

1. We should be bold for Him
2. Fearless in our love for others
3. And consistent, as He is consistent in His

IV. Contrary Compassion (v. 20)

A. Portrait

1. A person here with a certain attitude
2. Someone who _____ one thing and _____
another
 - a) His statement: "I Love God"

b) His Action and Attitude: he “hateth his brother”

c) Conclusion: Liar

3. We as physical tangible people can see one another

4. We of course cannot see God (v. 12)

5. The point here is this:

If you don't love the visible body of Christ, how can you love the God who saved and instituted that body?

B. Impartiality

1. Christ in His love died for _____ (John 3:16)

a) Not some

b) Not most

c) God so loved *the world*

2. Christ even showed love and compassion to His _____ and instructed us to do the same!

3. Matthew 5:43-48.

4. Christ's love was not partial or selective; our love shouldn't be either

5. Romans 12:9-10.

V. _____ of Christ (v. 21)

A. Source

1. We see it is from God based on the previous verse

2. It has been given to the brethren, the church

3. “We” have it

B. Instruction

1. Directed at the believers

2. “He who loveth God”

3. We are to love our brother also

4. Love them as Christ loved them

5. Love them as Christ loved _____

6. John 13:34-35.

7. John 15:9-12.

C. Love as He loved and _____ to love us