



1 John

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1 John

1 John 4:7-8

- The subjunctive: Love one another
 - A subjunctive is the “then” built upon an “if.” Our love for one another is, grammatically, the “then.”
 - This is a reciprocal kind of love. The love others in the church display to us must be repaid in kind.
 - While there is also a love for unbelievers, such love is not the topic in these verses. This passage is an internal matter.

1 John 4:7-8

- The source of this love: God
 - The love from God is the “if” of the “if/then” statement. “If love is from God, let us then love one another.”
 - A more literal translation (but reversing the order of the clause for better English grammar): “Beloved, because ‘the love’ is from God, we might love one another.”
 - The love from God is a doctrinal reality, a foundational aspect of *Theology*. Not only “God is love,” but also “the love” is from God. (note the definite article in the Greek—not “love is from God” but “the love is from God.”)
 - Since the love is from God, then we love one another, and have no excuse for *not* loving one another.
 - There is a “love” that is of this world: John 15:19, Matthew 5:46

1 John 4:7-8

- “God is love” is literally “The God, love is.” Because of the definite article, God and love are *not* interchangeable.
- The positive significance of loving one another: it displays our new birth and intimate knowledge of God
 - Since the love is from God, the one loving has been born from God and knows God experientially.
 - What about those who are loving but are *not* born of God?
 - Just like you can’t take a verse out of context, you can’t take a phrase out of context.
 - The “love from God” is the foundation of this sentence. Any other kind of love is not being talked about in this verse. (for example, Luke 11:43)

1 John 4:7-8

- The negative significance of *not* loving one another: it displays our lack of intimate knowledge of God.
 - Note that the lack of love has only reference to *knowledge* not *new birth*. Don't read more or less into this statement than it says.

1 John 4:9-10

- If you want a manifestation of the love of God, you see it in God's sending of his "only born" Son.
- The Bible clearly connects the possibility of eternal life with the sending of the only begotten Son.
 - Those who teach that we could have achieved life outside of the sending of Jesus Christ are entirely unbiblical.
 - Jesus is "the propitiation" of *our* sins.
 - This is a completed work. Christ is not "propitiating" our sins, He is "the propitiation" of our sins.
 - This is a universal work. 2 John 2:2
 - Jehovah's Witnesses believe Christ is only the propitiation of Adam's sins, giving the rest of us *opportunity* to earn salvation. (They also believe Christ had a brother, Lucifer)
 - Calvinists believe Christ is only the propitiation of *the sins of the elect*, not the sins of all.
 - Universal propitiation does not mean universal salvation.
 - Price paid does not mean package delivered.
 - God offers delivery of the package based on faith.

1 John 4:11

- Verses 7-11 are a single argument:
 - Because love is from God, we can love one another (v. 7)
 - If God loved us, we have a debt to love one another (v. 11)
- How are we doing at our obligation?

1 John 4:12-16

- Though we cannot see God, He can abide in us (v. 12)
- What confirmation do we have?
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit. (v. 13)
 - The gift of Apostolic testimony: the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world (v. 14)
 - The gift of mutual fellowship with God (15-16)
 - Built on the confession of the continuing reality of the incarnation.
 - This was a confession that gnostics (and many others) refuse to make.
 - This confession is built on knowledge followed by belief (v. 16)

Questions?

- Call in your question: 888-238-8529
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- Join me in Branson, April 25-27
- Thank you, Club members!