



1 John

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1 John

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 4:9-10

- If you want a manifestation of the love of God, you see it in God's sending of his "only born" Son.
 - "Manifested" is an external word, a solid word.
 - Used 11 times in 1 John (1:2; 2:19,28; 3:2,5,8; 4:9)
 - The synonym (*delos*) is used in 1 Corinthians 15:27 and Matthew 26:27, and displays the "internal" kind of display.
 - Since "love" is not a solid word, you would expect "*delos*," but the love becomes solidly visible in Jesus Christ.
- The means of manifestation: the incarnation
 - Word study: *μονογενῆ* [*menogena*]
 - *Monos* – Only, single, alone
 - *Ginomai* – To be
 - Thus *menogena* is the "only being" son, or *unique*
 - The English translation "begotten" incorrectly conveys the idea of origins. The Greek word says nothing about origins.

1 John 4:9-10

- The manifestation of love: the incarnation
- The timing: has sent—Perfect tense.
 - Perfect tense = completed in the past with results lasting till today.
 - Examples: 1 John 3:1 (bestowed), 1 John 4:13 (given), Revelation 16:17 (done)
- The manner: has sent
 - ἀποστέλλω [apostello] – from which we get “Apostle.”
 - An Apostle is *sent* with a *direct* commission.
 - Jesus was directly sent from God.
 - The Apostles were directly sent by Jesus.
 - Paul had a direct experience with the risen Lord.
 - Only one with a direct experience and specific assignment can claim apostleship.

1 John 4:9-10

- The result: we can live!
 - The subjunctive (might) is built on the sending, which has been accomplished in the perfect tense.
 - The interpretation of “we” is very important. It does not say “anyone.” Since “we” are John and his “little children,” this is not a *possibility* but an *assurance*.
 - Taken alone, one would have to translate the subjunctive into “might”
 - Taken in context, it can be translated, “God’s love was made externally evident to us in the sending of His unique Son into the world. Because this Son was sent (and His arrival continues to have effect today), we now live through Him.”
- The mediating Agent: through Him
 - We do not just “live,” but we “live through Him.”
- The summary: The love is not in our love for God, but in the sending of the son to expiate our sins.

1 John 4:10 – Translation Issue

- “*This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be **the means by which our sins are forgiven.***” (1 John 4:10, GNB)
 - Propitiation involves much more than forgiveness.
 - To be forgiven of our sins is to have them not held to our account.
 - To have our sins propitiated is to have their debt fully paid so that they have no more condemnation or demand.
 - Forgiveness can be given *without* propitiation.
 - If you break my window, I can forgive you and release you.
 - Restoration can only be given with propitiation.
 - For my window to be fixed, there will have to be a payment.
 - Propitiation means that God has fully satisfied all payments.
 - In life, it is not a window that was broken, but the image of God that was broken.
 - Because this *had to be* fixed, propitiation was the *only* option.

1 John 4:11-12

- The obligation to love (v. 11)
 - “If God so loved us”
 - The “if” has been answered in previous verses, so this could be translated “since”
 - The adverb “so” refreshes the mind on the manner and manifestation of God’s love.
 - Our debt: to love
 - Romans 13:8
 - Opheilo – “to owe”
 - From Ophelos: to heap up or accumulate, an advantage or profit
 - » Name Ophelia (a helper)
 - » Mosquito: of the genus *anopheles* (of no advantage)
 - We should “pile up our resources” to love one another
 - Our “piling up resources to love each other” is an internal response to the external manifestation of God’s love.

1 John 4:11-12

- The obligation to love (v. 11)
- The significance of our loving (v. 12)
 - “No one has seen God at any time” is unexpected and “has the air of being misplaced” (J.L. Houlden)
 - Because we believe it is in the right place, we must connect our *response of love* with a true *experience with God*.
 - God is not known through a mystical experience, but through the person of Jesus Christ.
 - “Seen” in v. 12 is *theaomai* from which we get “theater”
 - Some claim to have been in a mystical theater and claim to have seen God, against the teaching of Scripture.
 - Our love for one another is far more powerful than some supposed mystical experience.

1 John 4:11-12

– Notice the if's

- If God loved us (v. 11)
 - “loved” is in the indicative, as a statement of fact
- If we love one another
 - “love” is in the subjunctive, a possible fact
- Can you make the claim that you have an experience with God?
 - Not by some mystical experience
 - Only if you have the *evidence* of love for one another.

1 John 4:13-16

Three grounds of assurance

- He has given us of His Spirit
 - Our assurance is not in a knowledge we have achieved nor mystical experience we have had, but in the gift of the Spirit God has given.
 - In 1 John 3:24 the Spirit was given (aorist tense: given at a point in time)
 - In 1 John 4:13 the Spirit has been given (perfect tense: ongoing presence)
 - “of his Spirit.” Do we receive the entire Spirit? See John 3:34.

1 John 4:13-16

Three grounds of assurance

- He has given us of His Spirit (v. 13)
- He has given us Apostolic testimony (v. 14)
 - The Apostolic message: *the Father has sent the Son [as] Savior of the World*
 - His role as Savior is not just what He did, it is who He is!
 - A better English insertion would be *the Father has sent the Son [who is] the Savior of the world.*

1 John 4:13-16

Three grounds of assurance

- He has given us of His Spirit (v. 13)
- He has given us Apostolic testimony (v. 14)
- He has given us mutual fellowship with Him (vv. 15-16)
 - Another “if” with a subjunctive, which always indicates a possibility but not an assurance.
 - Literally “whomever, if he might confess...God in him abides.”
 - The confession is subjunctive, but also aorist: at a point in time
 - The confession: Jesus *is* the Son of God
 - Already defined in 1 John 4:2
 - Not a past tense confession – Jesus is the eternal Son of God
 - The Gnostics would not make such a confession

1 John 4:17-18

Results of love in the Believer's life: confidence in the coming day of judgment

- A literal translation: In this the love with us has been completed: that we might have confidence in the day of judgment. (v. 17a)
 - Completed (perfected) – a perfect passive verb.
 - Perfect: completed action with an ongoing result
 - Passive: We did not actively participate
 - The end result of love is to give us confidence.
- “As he is, so are we in this world”
 - He is Jesus (v. 15) or God (v. 16)
 - The present tense tells us of His current activity in the world
 - The emphasis isn't on *where* we are, but *what* we are
 - Two choices for this character trait that is to be ours:
 - Loving (overall context)
 - Bold (v. 17 context)

1 John 4:19-21

- Who started this love? He did! (v. 19)
- Love for God and hate for your brother are incompatible...even mutually exclusive. (v. 20)
 - Love on the visible level is a prerequisite of love on the invisible level
- The command to love our brother is given in order that those seeking to love God might understand the obligation to love brother (v. 21)

Questions?

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