

# 1 JOHN 4:7-21 — WE ARE TO LOVE BECAUSE...

## Love is the Essence of God (4:7-8)

## LOVE IN US

1

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1Jn.4:7-8)

- We are to love one another because God is the source of love, and we bear His nature and thus we have literally been flooded with that love.

## Love is Manifested by Christ (4:9-11)

## GOSPEL

2

<sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1Jn.4:9-11)

- We are to love one another because Christ is the manifestation of the Father's love and Himself the great example of self-giving love.

3

## Love is the Key to Our Testimony (4:12)

## WITNESS

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. (1Jn.4:12)

- Because nobody can see God, the unseen God becomes seen in the love of believers.

## Love is the Assurance of Our Salvation (4:13-16)

## ASSURANCE

4

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. (1Jn.4:13-16)

- How do you know that you have the Spirit? Because you believe the gospel. God only gives the Spirit to those that are His.

## Love is Our Confidence in Judgment (4:17-18)

## CONFIDENT FUTURE

5

<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (1Jn.4:17-18)

- If you fear the coming of Christ, then you are not perfected in love. The saint who fears Christ's return may not be a saint at all.

## Love is Only Reasonable (4:19-21)

## LOGICAL

6

<sup>19</sup>We love Him because He first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1Jn.4:19-21)

- You can't claim to love the invisible God and not love the God that's in His people. It is absurd. So it's only reasonable then to say true believers are characterized by loving the way God loves – sacrificial, selfless love.