



“Perfecting Love”

Casting Out Fear
I John 4:17-21

A perfect love brings:

I. Confidence - “that we may have boldness” (vs. 17-18)

Remembering our:

A. Position - “in the day of judgment”

B. Possession - “as He is, so are we in this world”

C. Progression - “perfect love casts out fear”

II. Connection – “who loves God love his brother also ”(vs. 19-20)

Recognizing the :

A. Determinant - “because He first loved us”
determining element

B. Deceit - “If a man say...love...hates...he is a liar”

C. Difficulty - “how can he love God...he has not seen ”

III. Commitment - “And this commandment” (v. 21)

Resolved that love is:

A. Expected – “have we from Him”

B. Essential – “he who loves God”

C. Exceptional – “love his brother also”

not ordinary, having much more than average in quantity, quality, or ability

Sentence Sermon:

“Loving God means loving who God loves.”

Additional Verses

- *Romans 8:15*
- *I Corinthians 3:12-15*
- *II Corinthians 5:10*
- *I John 2:28; 3:21; 5:14*
- *II Peter 3:18*
- *Psalms 34*
- *Matthew 8:26*
- *Romans 8:34-39; 14:23*
- *Proverbs 10:12*
- *Galatians 5:13*
- *Philippians 1:9*
- *I Thessalonians 4:9*
- *I Peter 4:8*
- *John 13:34*
- *Revelation 21:8*
- *II Timothy 1:7*
- *Hebrews 13:6*
- *John 1:10; 2:4, 22; 4:20*
- *I John 2:9-10; 3:11, 14-17; 4:7-10*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in this passage?
2. What is “our love” that is made perfect? cp. v.12
3. When is the day of judgment? Why is boldness needed?
4. How are we “as He is” in this world?
5. How does perfect love cast out fear?
6. What is the significance of the fact that God loved us first?
7. Why do you think John used such a strong word like liar?
8. Why is it incredulous to think someone loves God but not men?
9. How does John know we have the commandment from Him?
10. What is the penalty or consequence if we don't love our brother?
11. Is loving your brother hard? What can we do to make it easier?

INTRO:

What does it mean to love God?

What does it mean to love your brother? What does it look like?

Rate yourself at how well you love God? Your brother? (1-10)

v. 17 .

- Herein = in this...by this
- is ...made perfect = to bring to completion
- our love = our agape....the love that God gave us
- that we may have = for the purpose ??
- boldness = confidence to speak (*1 John 2:28; 3:21; 5:14*)
- in the day of judgment = bema seat of Christ...being evaluated for reward and commendation
- because = why we will have boldness
- as He is = who? Jesus? Is? This says that Jesus is ...hallelujah...Jesus is....He is Alive...He is Loving....He is accepting! Its talking about His character
- So are we = likeness of Christ in the way we love
- in this world = in contrast to the way the world loves and its lack of love

V. 18

- There is = It is not expected to find
- no fear = not any fear...of the dread or terror sense
- in love = in God's kind of love...benevolent
- but = why not? Because of the following truth
- Perfect love = cp. v. 12, 17 – perfected love...result of a perfecting work...cp. James 1:4 – patience has a perfecting work
 - the word behind the translation is a form of telios, which doesn't mean “flawless,” but “fulfilling its purpose.” Eugene Peterson has it right when he translates, “well-formed love.” Its the same as *Q.C.* Passed for the product or ISO Certified for a company.
- casts out fear = “ballo” throws out fear...the wording is used to state rejectionas in Jn. 6:37; 9:34; 12:31
- because fear hath torment =punishment/ or disciplinary chastisement for wrongdoing
- He that fears = “phoboumenos = remains in fear....the one that still dreads or is afraid
- is not = statement in the negative...like not ready....or not finished yet...
- made perfect in love =has not been brought to completion in their understanding/experience/practice of love.

v. 19.

- We = believers including John
- love Him = have a real and forward looking (No object in the original = We love.... because He loved Us)
 - **How would you describe your love of God?**
 - Intellectual
 - Guilt driven
 - Reluctant
 - Resentful
 - On your own terms
 - **as** long as He does what you want
- because He = only as a result of something God did first....
- first = “protos” first in time, place, influence, rank
- loved us = aorist....may point to a specific act of love

v. 20

- If = *3rd class conditional = likely to happen*
- *a man say = a human may say....cp. 1:6; 2:4*
- *I love God = I unconditionally have affection for God and everything that goes with Him.*
- *and hates his brother = present active subjunctive... ”keeps on hating”(I John 2:9; 3:15)*
- *he is a liar = one who is false / breaks faith(1:10;2:4, 22)*
 - *SO EVERY CLAIM TO LOVE GOD IS A DELUSION IF IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY UNSELFISH AND PRACTICAL LOVE FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. THAT KIND OF LIVING IS THE EPITOME OF FOLLY. THAT PERSON IS DECEIVED. IT'S A FALSE BOAST.*

- *for he that loves not his brother = “the one who does not keep on loving”---present active negative articular participle.*
- *who he has seen = who he can see*
- *how can he love God = literally = cannot love....Is not able to (have the power or ability to) go on loving.. (cp. 2:9 – go on sinning)*
- *whom he has not seen =*
 - *The greek word order places “the God” right alongside “the brother” ...coupling/comparing/contrasting....calling for consistency*
 - *Stott observes “It is obviously easier to love and serve a visible man than an invisible God, and if we fail in the easier task, it is absurd to claim success in the harder.”*
 - **What if God did things that we did not approve of?**
 - Saves people we dont like
 - Allows things to happen that you dont want to happen

v. 21.

- *And this commandment = what is this legalism...no it is what God desires and what believers who walk with God care about....look at the use of commands in **I John....2:3, 3:23-24, 5:3***
- *have we = we have been given and know it*
- *from Him = from **John 13:34***
- *that he who loves God = the right kind of love for God....a perfected love...*
- *loves his brother also = love for our fellow believers is the test of our love for God....sometimes it is a tough test but the test none the less.*