

1John 4:7–19

“Triune Love Produced, Known, and Displayed in the Divinely Redeemed”

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In what way does true love display God? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. 1John 4:7–19 prepares us for the opening portion of Morning Public Worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these thirteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that genuine love is only that love which comes by new birth, because its source is that love that God has within Himself as Father, Son, and Spirit. We know that love because in giving the Son, He has given Himself. And, in giving the Spirit, He has given us the ability to know the Father and the Son and therefore to know the Divine love of God in giving the Son to become a propitiation, and therefore to become a Man so that He could die and atone for us. The only-begotten Son is the full display of God to us; and though not a full display, the Spirit-born love of believers is yet a true display of God in us. Of course, this Divine love has God Himself as its first and great object, so that when we see the Son on the judgment throne, our hearts will be so full of love to Him (for first loving us!) that there will be no room in our hearts on that day for fear. Hallelujah!

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 • Read 1John 4:7–19

Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle call them (v7a)? What does he say to do? From where would this love come? How does it come from Him? What is true of someone who doesn’t love (v8)? Why? How did God show His love (v9)? From where does love not originate (v10)? From where does it originate, and in what did it result? What does that display of love call for from us (v11)? What has no one seen (v12)? But in whom does God abide, and in whom does His love fully display itself? What can loving make us know (v13)? Why—what can we know He has given us, if we love? What else is evidence of this indwelling of the Spirit and abiding in God (v14–15)? And what are confessing/knowing/believing when we confess this about Christ (v16)? What is love? For what day does our current love give us boldness (v17)? What likeness/resemblance fosters this boldness? What isn’t there in love (v18)? What does perfected love do? What does it show if we fear? Whom do we love, and why, in v19?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, and Song of Adoration all come from 1John 4:7–18, so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *My Jesus, I Love Thee*.

The apostle urges us to love one another, because this is the currently visible display of something that goes back into God Himself. v12 clues us in to the fact that this is where he is taking us, because he uses language from the prologue of his gospel (cf. Jn 1:18).

There, he had begun at the beginning—where the Word was already God and with God. This, of course, is how it can be true that God is love (v8b). Because God is Triune—three Persons but one substance, one God—He is able to have love within Himself, by the mutual adoration of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

In John 1, no one had seen God at any time, but the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, fully declared (exegeted) Him. Now, in 1John 4, though we do not “exegete” God to the world as Christ does, yet as His adopted children, “God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” That is to say that it was His plan that when He takes sinners such as we were; and makes us lovers of Him and of one another, such as we are; He would display in us a reflection or refraction of His own glorious love.

This is the only source of genuinely True love (capital T!). “Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” Jesus’s love for us is the greatest display of God’s love in His only-begotten Son (cf. Jn 1:17). Now our love for one another is the greatest display of our “born of God” new birth, and our “knowing God” as Father, Son, and Spirit in our adoption.

Love is all in the family. If you don’t love, you don’t know God. Simple as that. The only way to know God is in His Son, and those who know the Son know Him as the propitiation (full atonement) for our sins. That’s how we know love, and our right response and imitation is to love one another (v11). But if you have this birth from God and the Spirit of God (v13), then by the Spirit you see and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior.

These great truths can make your mind spin, or swim, as you consider them. But, they can also bring clarity and freedom to thinking about other things. One of these we have already seen: our brothers and sisters in the church. God loved me in Jesus; God loved them in Jesus; I must love them in God and Jesus. Another area that becomes crystal clear when thinking about God and His love is the day of judgment. God loved me in Jesus, atoning for me by Him and saving me by Him, so I can think about the day of judgment with boldness instead of fear (v17–18).

We love Him because He made Himself ours. We love Him because He atoned for us. We love Him in life; we’ll love Him in death; we’ll love Him at the judgment; we’ll love Him forever. We love Him because He first loved us.

How does meditating upon Christ’s atonement and how it was planned/executed help you know what love is? How does this help you love others? What would someone think about God’s love for us, if they thought your love for the brethren was a reflection of it? How does meditating upon Christ’s atonement and the day of judgment help you love Him?

Sample prayer: O God, You are love in Yourself. We enter into Your own eternal and infinite joy when we love You. And You have brought us into that love by the gift of Your Son to atone for our sins, and by the gift of new birth from Your Spirit. Forgive us for when our love for You is dull or cold, and when we fail to love one another. Just as You have given us fearlessness in the judgment by the atonement of Christ, so also give us forgiveness and cleansing, and conform us to Christ. Make us love Him and one another, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP23B “Thank the Lord, for He Is Good” or TPH496 “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First John chapter 4 verses 17 and 19. These are going towards beloved let us love one another for love as of God. And everyone who loves us, born of God and knows God, he who does not love, does not know. God for God is love and this the love of God was manifested toward us.

That God sent his only begotten son into the world that we might live through him. And this is love not that, we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be the perfectation for our sins loved if God. So, loved us. Then we also ought to love one.

Another 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 by this. We know that we abide in him and he and us because he has given us of his spirit and we have seen and testify that the father has sent the son as savior of the world.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the son of God. God abides in him. And he and God and we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love and here you go. Abides in love abides, in God, and God and him 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? There's no fear and love. Look, perfect, love. Casts out fear because fear involves torment, but he who fears has not been made perfect enough. We love him because he first loved us so far, the reading of God's inspired and inerrant work.

So the apostle is telling us telling his readers, and we are among his readers now to love one. Another but in order to tell us why to love one another and how it happens that we make come to love one another. He goes all the way back into God himself says let us love one another for love.

As of God, beginning of verse seven and God is love end of verse 8. And then God as love again, middle of verse 16. The fact that God has loved that means that everything that love is God is God is more than just love, but everything love is God is and within himself among the father and the son and the spirit as this passage to teaches us the great thing between them is this mutual love and adoration and fellowship.

That is within the Godhead of our triune. God, fathers on the Holy Spirit three persons one. God forever. And so not only is everything that love is God is that but within himself, love is the great everlasting fellowship and relationship. There is not wrath within God himself. There's only wrath as his creatures are considered in his decree, who would sit, but there is no sin in God.

And so wrath is an expression actually of the love of God, for himself of his holy and infinite commitment to himself. And what that must mean for those who sit against God. And so he says loved, let us love one another for love is of God. That's where it comes from.

That's what he's like in himself. When we love one another, we get to do something to participate in something that has it's source, has its origin within the Godhead. And so he says everyone who loves his born of God. Love doesn't come from something on earth. Love doesn't come from any natural resource, the sun, you know, shines out energy and it gives light.

And there are all of these created things that are that are secondary or subordinate sources for these other things. But love has its source and God himself. Now, this means we have to redefine love a little bit because there are many things that are not truly love that are called love, we know from this passage that only that which has at its source as it's heart as it's cause the love of God for himself.

I've all hearted commitment to God, and delighting God, and adoration of God, and fellowship with God. All of those things that the father, and the son, and the spirit have together for forever and ever only that is called love. That's why the first great commandment has to be the first great commandment because if love and your neighbor isn't an expression of love for the God who created your neighbor and love for the God in his image, your neighbor was made.

Then it's not actually love for your neighbor because it doesn't come from that commitment to God, that has its origin in God and so he says beloved let us love one. Another for love is of God. And everyone who loves is born of God and knows God, so that when we love each other the right way and we love each other, the Bible way because God made us and because God made the other one and because we are in the image of God and the other one is in the image of God.

And this is what God has given us to do. And to enjoy, we are doing something that comes from having been born of him. Having the new birth from the spirit doesn't come from the flesh. And as we know the love that we have for what another we know God and is love for one another.

And that's what we are enjoying in our knowledge of one another. Now, this he makes clear much later in the passage when he says in verse 12. No one has seen God in at any time. If we love one, another God abides in us now, that's important language. In John's writing, we're in his first letter.

But if you look back at his gospel in the first chapter, you have verse 18. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten son, who is in the bosom of the father, he has declared him and he's just been describing how the word is God from forever.

And the word is with God from forever is being in the bosom of the father. There. In verse 18 is parallel to his being toward God, or facing God in the beginning. Earlier in the chapter, almost at the beginning of the chapter there, he's saying that God had given us.

Jesus. As the only one in him, we see him the only begotten of the father who when he became flesh, you could hold his glory, as the one who is full of steadfast, love and faithfulness. Now, we don't physically lay eyes on Jesus right now, we know, even the God, man, even, our Savior.

Even the Redeemer in a very similar way to how we know, God, the Father, by his word by the spirit, giving us faith the way old of him. You know, Peter says, whom you have not seen you love him, you have not seen. You believe in him and we haven't seen him, but we do see one another and we do see one another's.

Love that comes through faith in Jesus Christ from the character of Christ, by the spirit who gives us the life of God in ourselves. And so it's not quite the same because we're not Jesus, but the love that we have for one another another has the same origin that comes from the same place and so he uses in first John 4:12 similar language to John 1:18 and he says, 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 as found full expression in us very similar to in. Paul says, by that God told him my grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect and weakness. It doesn't mean that Paul and second Corinthians 12 became all mightily strong.

And when this says, his love has been perfected. And that's it doesn't mean you have come to love is perfectly as God does, but it does mean that the perfection, which is God's strength is displayed, in this fear or, by in the sphere, the that is Paul's weakness. And then here, the perfection that is God's love is displayed.

Even in our love for one another and then he says by this, we know that we abide in him, and he and us, because he is given us of his spirit because there's something, when, when Christians love one another, for the sake of loving God. And because God is loving through us and has given to us to love, like he does to some measure, says by this, we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he is given us of his spirit.

Only from the new birth, says verse 7. Only from the Holy Spirit, says verse 13. Does this love come and it's the same spirit and birth that make us see and testify that the father has sent the son as the Savior of the world. So what does God the spirit produce in us?

He produces in us not just a love for one another but a love for one another that comes from a love for the father and a love for the son and a love for the spirit. And an understanding that the reason we know that God is father's son. And Holy Spirit is that the father has sent his son into the world.

By this, we know, love not or sorry verse 10. And this is love, not that, we loved God, but the he loved us, we didn't have love in ourselves. He had love in himself and he sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. And so that's why this love is connected to believe in that.

The father is God, and that the son is God, and that the spirit is God, verse 15. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the son of God. God abides in him. Okay, so there are two things that come only from being born of God verse 12. Sorry verse 7, born of God, verse 7 and having his spirit verse 13, one of them is loving one another, but that loving one, another comes from the other one of those things which is knowing that Jesus is the son of God and that God has given us.

His son has given us himself in his son and so he says, whoever confesses that Jesus is the son of God, God abides in him and he and God, and we have known and believed the love that God has for us. If you don't know that Jesus is God and that when God gives his son to be the propitiation for our sins, which means that the son has to become a man because God cannot die and God cannot lead him, God cannot suffer wrath but Jesus had to do all of those things for us.

That's why in Acts 20. When Paul tells you Ephesians elders that the Holy Spirit has made them overseers in the church. He says about the church that it has been bought with the blood of God in the church of God which he bought with his own blood. He says in next chapter 20 we have known and believed the love that God has for us.

And so the love that God has for us is that he who is love in himself as now loved us by giving us himself and if God has given himself to be the atonement for your sins, to take away the guilt of your sins to take away the punishment that your sins deserve when you come to the judgment or you're going to be afraid.

No, you're not going to be afraid because God, judges, especially by his son, his son is the great display of himself, and his son. Now has humanity added to himself in which he has paid for our sins and the God man, is the visible one who sits on the throne.

You may see manifestations of glory that perhaps are indicative of the father, but they are not the display of God himself, the way the son is in his incarnation. Even now in his resurrected glorious state and what will you see on the throne whom will you see on the throne?

The land who has been slain, the one who has taken away your sin? You will be adoring in. Love the judge, because he is the one who died for you, he's the one who gave himself for you. He's the one whom the father, though, he loves him with. Perfect of I love from all eternity.

Having loved you in the sun has given for you. And so when we come to the judgment, we won't fear. Why will be too busy loving him? You won't be afraid of him because you'll be adoring him because he died for you. And he is yours. And you are is that's what over 17 through 19 are talking about.

It's not just saying, well, because of the transactional nature of justification, I am not afraid today at this judgment because I know that I am righteous before. God. I mean you wouldn't say it in that voice. You will know those things. Those are theologically true. But what verses 17 through 19 are saying is that if the love of God that came from being born of God, verse 7 and from the spirit of God, verse 13 is what has been producing in, you love for other believers.

Then what will your love for Jesus? Be like when you come to the judgment and you are loving him with the love of God, you're loving him. The way, the father has loved the sun from all eternity. You're loving him with love. That comes from the love of the spirit for this son for all eternity.

Now, read and hear again, versus 17 through 19 love has been perfected among us. And this, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment because as he is. So are we in this world? So right now in this world believers who are loving one, another are having a love that comes only from being born of God and knowing God verse seven.

So that's what it's like for you in this world when you're dealing with one another, what will it be like for you at the judgment? When you're dealing with in 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? 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 and love. Now, it's true that because he loves us, will not be afraid of him. But that's not what versus 17 and 18 are focusing on for the 17 and 18 are focusing on how much we are going to be loving in when we see him.

And we'll be so full of love for him, which comes from knowing his love for us, that we won't be the slightest. Shred the slightest particle of trade at the judgment of torment because we'll be loving him. Who first loved us verse 19. We loved him because he first loved us.

That's why this passage is the passage that will read and here and pray before singing my Jesus I love thee especially with a view to the last day and all eternity, what that we had opportunity. I know we've probably had half an hour of teaching, just now and we can't do that at the call to worship in the public worship.

But God, the spirit helped you to remember the teaching of this passage so that you can see where all Christian love for one, another comes from now and how you love Jesus. Now, and how you will be perfected in loving him, when you come to see him at the judgment with, then you will be prepared to sing.

Well, the thoughts of this passage in the first song of the Lord. Say, let's ask God to bless to us. This message all Holy Spirit how we thank you that the father and the son have given you. That the father has given you by way of the son unto us.

So that we might see in testify that Jesus is the son of God, that God is love and that God has given himself and love. And so God has given his son in love and God has given us. You in love, make us to abide in God, make us to get our spiritual life, our new birth through Jesus Christ from Jesus Christ by your almighty work over Holy Spirit.

So that the love that you father, son and Holy Spirit have from all eternity in yourself and among yourself would produce enough love. For Jesus. Love for one another. That even though to a lesser extent yet, still, truly those who see believers. Love one. Another would be able to see what God is like in himself.

We thank you that although no one has seen God. At any time you gave your son, oh God, that the only begotten who is in a blessing of the father might fully reveal you and we know that we will not fully reveal you and we ask for faith and Jesus Christ that the light of the knowledge of your glory would shine in our hearts of the face of Jesus Christ.

But we do wish Lord, that that love which comes from. You would be visible in our lives and though not fully revealing you yet. We would to some extent to truly reveal you. So help us to love you first and foremost with all our arts or minded strength and grant that from that.

Love that we have for you. We would therefore also love one. Another is Christ, has loved us and love our neighbor as we love ourselves and make display of yourself in us even in this world. So that as you are, so would we be in this world? And so that when we come to the judgment, we may have confidence that we may when we come to the judgment, we will be so perfectly.

Loving Christ. The term won't be any room for fear. Oh, Lord. When I think of each of my children and what it will be like for them at the judgment, I pray that this is what it would be like that you will make them to have known, Christ's attendment for them.

And to be so full of love to him, that they are adoring him who sits on the throne so perfectly that there is no room for fear grants that they and my wife and I would love you because you first loved us. We ask it in Jesus name amen.