

The Necessity of Love

1 John 4:7-21

I. The Command: _____ (7-12, 21)

A. God's _____ (7-8)

1. Love is from _____ (7)

2. God is _____ (8)

B. God's _____ (9-11)

C. God's _____ (12)

II. The Connection: _____ & _____ (13-16)

A. The gift of the _____ (13)

B. The Holy Spirit's _____ (14-16)

III. The Confidence: _____ (17-18)

IV. The Conclusion: _____ (19-21)

The love of God displayed in his people is the strongest apologetic that God has in the world. When his love is planted in their hearts, and he himself thus dwells within them, his love is “perfected” in the complementary response which it finds in them, towards him and towards their fellows. It is in this way that they are not only holy and merciful as he is holy and merciful, but, as enjoyed by their Lord in the Matthaean version of the Sermon on the Mount, [they are] “perfect” as their “heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48), and all [of this is] through that perfection of love poured out for them in the sacrifice of the cross.

- F.F. Bruce