

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking again this morning at “Manifesting Perfect Love.”
2. Please take your Bibles and turn with me to 1 John chapter 4.
3. John has moved his attention from testing the spirits to his third exposition of love.
4. He first mentioned it in 2:7–11, where it is given as an indicator of one who is walking in the light.
5. The second occurrence comes in 3:11–18 (or even 3:10–24) and is mentioned as

evidence that one is a child of God.

6. So all that has been said about love (1:8–10; 3:1, God’s love; 3:13–18) is now fully developed.¹

7. Beginning at verse 7 John says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love

¹ Akin, Daniel L. [1. 2. 3 John](#). Vol. 38. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001. Print. The New American Commentary.

one another.”

8. In our last time together we looked at verses 7-8.
9. And in those two verses we saw the exhortation to love.
10. We saw that it is addressed to all believers and that it comes from God Himself.
11. Love is His nature because God is love.
12. And because He is love, salvation produces love in the heart of every believer.
13. This morning as we look at verses 9-11 we will see first...

LESSON

- I. The Exhortation to Love (vv.7-8)
- II. The Manifestation of Love (vv.9-11)

- A. God's Love is Revealed from His Nature (v.9a)

The end of verse 8 says that God is love

It is "by this, the love of God was manifested"

It has accurately been said that "love does not define God, but God defines love." God is love and God is light; therefore, His love is a *holy* love, and His holiness is expressed in love. All that God *does* expresses all that God

is. Even His judgments are measured out in love and mercy (Lam. 3:22–23).²

1. The word “manifested” (phaneroo) means, “to reveal, to make clear, to make evident.”³
2. The word conveys the thought of the manifestation of what was previously hidden.⁴
3. Under the Old Covenant, God was hidden behind the shadows of ritual and ceremony (Heb. 10:1); but in Jesus Christ “the life was manifested” (1 John 1:2). “He that hath seen Me,” said Jesus, “hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).⁵

² Wiersbe, Warren W. [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#). Vol. 2. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996. Print.

³ Fritz Rienecker and Cleon Rogers, *The Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Rienecker and Rogers.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Wiersbe.

B. God's Love was Manifested "in Us" (v.9b)

1. John's statement that this love was manifested "toward us" (*en hēmin*, literally, "in us") is differently understood. Some, such as Smith, understand it subjectively, " 'in our souls'—an inward experience."⁶
2. But since John is referring to a historical event, such an inner subjective meaning seems unlikely.
3. As relating to an objective event, the meaning may be "toward us" or "among us" as the sphere in which the manifestation took place.

⁶ David Smith, "The Epistle of St. John," in *The Expositor's Greek Testament* ([1897]; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, n.d.), 5:191.

4. Because those who beheld this manifestation were not merely interested spectators, Lenski holds that “the phrase *en hēmin* means that the manifestation was ‘in connection with us,’ it involved us as the recipients of God’s love.”⁷
5. Romans 5:8 (NASB) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Because God is love, He must communicate—not only in words but in deeds. True love is never static or inactive.⁸

⁷ R.C.H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of the Epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude* (Columbus, Ohio: Wartburg Press, 1945), p. 500.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Wiersbe

C. God's Love was Manifested by Jesus Christ (v.9c)

1. God sent Jesus into the world

- a) "Sent" is *apostellō* (ἀποστέλλω), "to send on a commission as an envoy, with credentials (the miracles), to perform certain duties," here, to die for sinners, providing a salvation to be offered on the basis of justice satisfied to the one who places his faith in Him as Saviour.
- b) The verb is in the perfect tense speaking of a past completed action having

present results.

- c) The prefixed preposition is *apo* (ἀπο), “off.” He has sent off the Son with the result that a salvation has been provided for sinful man.

- (1) Luke 4:16-21 (NASB)
And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place

where it was written, 18
“The Spirit of the Lord is
upon Me, because He
anointed Me to preach
the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to
proclaim release to the
captives, and recovery of
sight to the blind, to set
free those who are
oppressed, 19 To
proclaim the favorable
year of the Lord.” 20 And
He closed the book, gave
it back to the attendant
and sat down; and the
eyes of all in the
synagogue were fixed on
Him. 21 And He began to
say to them, “Today this

Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

- (2) After Jesus fed the 5000 He said to the crowds who followed Him to Capernaum in John 6:26-29 (NASB) after they asked Him when he got there. Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life,

which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.” 28 Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

- (3) Jesus said to the Jews in John 8:28-29 (NASB)
“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak

these things as the Father taught Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

2. God sent His one of a kind Son

- a) The phrase “His only begotten Son” (v.9c) is the word *monogenēs*
- b) It comes from *monos* (“only, single”) and *genos* (“kind”)
- c) It denotes uniqueness rather than origin, “one of a kind.”

- d) The term denotes that “as the ‘only’ Son of God, He has no equal and is able fully to reveal the Father.”
- e) It occurs nine times in the New Testament (Luke 7:12; 8:42; 9:38; Heb 11:17; and in John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9).
- f) Only John uses the term *monogenēs* (translated “one and only”) to refer to Christ.
- g) The double use of the article (*ton huion autou*, “the Son of him”) and (*ton monogenē*, “the one and only”)¹¹⁴ emphasizes

the uniqueness and deity of Christ.⁹

3. God sent Jesus “so that we might live through Him” (v.9)
 - a) The verb “live” (*zēsōmen*) implies that those to whom the Son was sent were in a condition of spiritual death, and his mission was to impart life to them.¹⁰
 - b) 1 John 5:11 says that “life is in His Son.”
 - c) 1 John 5:20 says Jesus is the true God and eternal life.”

⁹ Akin, Daniel L. [1. 2. 3 John](#). Vol. 38. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001. Print. The New American Commentary.

¹⁰ Westcott, *Epistles of John*, 149. “The natural condition of men is spiritual death.”

- d) This life only occurs through (*dia*) him since he is the true and only mediating agent between God and man (cf. 1 Tim 2:5).¹¹

- e) When we receive Jesus we receive eternal life (John 3:16)

Warren Wiersbe says, “The fact that God *sent* His Son into the world is one evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ. Babies are not *sent* into the world from some other place; they are *born* into the world. As the perfect Man, Jesus was born into the world, but as the eternal Son, He was sent into the world.”¹²

¹¹ Ibid., Akin.

¹² Ibid., Wiersbe.

III. The Intervention of Love (vv.10-11)

“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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

A. We Didn't Love God First (v.10)

1. We hated God because we were dead in sin

a) Ephesians 2:1 (NASB) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.

b) Titus 3:3 (NASB) For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived,

enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

- c) Luke 16:13 (NASB) No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

2. We lived our lives according to Satan (Eph.2:1-3)

B. God Initiated His Love to Us (v.10)

1. He loved us first

- a) It's "not that we loved God, but that He Loved Us"
- b) Verse 19 says, "We love, because He first loved us."
- c) God loved us when we could not love Him - Romans 5:6 (NASB) For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

2. He chose us first

- a) John 15:16 (NASB) You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you

ask of the Father in My name
He may give to you.

- b) They thought they chose Him first when they said they said they found Him but the reality is He found them - John 1:43-45 (NASB) The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the

son of Joseph.”

- c) God chose us before the foundation of the world - Eph.1:4
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- 3. He drew us first to Himself (John 6:37, 44, 65)
 - 4. He provided appeasement to God for our sins (v.10)
 - a) In initiating His love to us He sent Jesus “to be the propitiation for our sins” (v.10)
 - b) The word “propitiation” (hilasmos) means “appeasement or satisfaction”

(MacArthur)

- c) The only NT occurrences of hilasmos appear in 1 John: here and 4:10. Some explain this term as a reference to expiation or the removal of sin's effect. However, the weight of evidence affirms clearly that hilasmos portrays the placating of God's wrath toward sin; hence, Christ's death (1:7) satisfies the just demands of God's holy judgment against sin. Thus, Christ does not simply represent believer's before God (v.1), He also provides the grounds for their forgiveness--He is both

Advocate and atoning
sacrifice.¹³

CONCLUSION

1. Because God manifested His love to us in Jesus Christ by sending Him to satisfy His holy and righteous judgment we are obligated to love one another (v.11).
2. God intervened in our life while we were dead in trespasses and sins.
3. He loved us first.
4. He chose us first.
5. He drew us first to Himself.

¹³ W.A. Criswell, Believer's Study Bible.

6. And He provided appeasement to God for our sins.
7. What else can we do but love one another.
8. We now have the capacity for love.
9. Our lives are characterized now by love not hate.
10. Do you know this love I'm talking about this morning?
11. If not, you can by surrendering your life to Jesus Christ by denying yourself, taking up your cross and following Him.
12. Call on Him right now as we pray.

13. Let's pray.