

## 1 John 4:7-21 - Part 1

Intro:

## XVI. Manifesting Perfect Love - Part 1

## A. The Character of God - vs 7-8

1. Beloved - **agapetos** - (divinely) loved ones - 2:7; 3:2,21; 4:1,11

2. let us love one another - 3:10-11,23

a. **agapao** - self sacrificing, not emotional, physical, or friendship - **Phil 2:2-5; Col 3:12-14**

b. for love is of God

i. just like God is life - **Ps 36:9**ii. and the source of eternal life - 1:1-2; 3:1-2,9; 5:12; **2 Tim 1:1; Tit 1:1-2**

iii. He is also light - 1:5-7; 2:8-11 and Love - 4:8

c. and everyone who loves - 4:16

i. is born of God

- **gennao** - to procreate (properly, of the father, but by extension of the mother); figuratively, to regenerate:--bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of, gender, make, spring.

- b/c they are His children, they will manifest His nature

ii. and knows God - **ginosko** - be aware (of), feel, (have) know(-ledge), perceived, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand.

iii. Those who have eternal life and walk in light will not only possess love (Ro 5:5), but will manifest it - 3:9

3. He who does not love does not know God, - 2:4; 3:6;

a. those not characterized by loving others, are not Christians

b. theological knowledge about God is insufficient for salvation - **1Ti 6:20; 2Ti 3:7**

4. for God is love.

a. part of His essential nature,

i. it is why He created mankind - as a love gift to His Son - **Jo 6:39; 17:9-15**ii. Explains human choice - **Jo 7:17-18** (not apart from the work of the Spirit - Jo 1:12-13; Eph 2:5; Tit 3:5) b/c His greatest command is to love Him - Mk 12:29-30iii. Explains His providence - **Ps 36:6; 145:9; Ro 8:28**iv. Explains the divine plan of redemption, if God only operated on the basis of Law, all would be under condemnation (**Ps 130:3**) on the basis of love, God provide remedy for sin through the finished work of Christ - **Mt 1:21; Ga 4:4-5**

b. It is demonstrated to all mankind in common grace

i. He is good to all - Ps 145:9

ii. He delays His judgment - Ge 15:16; Ac 17:30-31; Ro 3:25

iii. He warns sinners of coming judgment - Jer 7:13-15,23-25; 25:4-6; Eze 33:7-8; Zeph 2:1-3; Lk 3:7-9; 1 Co 10:6-11; Rev 3:1-3

iv. He invites sinners to come through the general offer of the Gospel - Mt 11:28; Jo 7:37; 1 Ti 2:4; Tit 2:11

c. His common grace is limited to this lifetime - Dan 12:2; Mt 25:41; 2 Th 1:9; Rev 20:12-15

## B. The Coming of Christ - vs 9-11

1. In this the love of God was manifested toward us

a. that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world - Jo 1:14; 3:16; **Ro 5:8;**

**Ro 8:32; Heb 1:5**

- i. the incarnation was the supreme demonstration of divine love
  - ii. Leaving the Glories of heaven, taking on the limitations of a human body, living among and daily dealing with sinful mankind, being treated with hatred and contempt, suffering illegitimate trials, beating, and crucifixion without striking out against sinful man - **Phil 2:5-8; Heb 12:2-3**
  - b. that we might live through Him - 3:16; 5:11; **Ro 6:11; 8:11-13**
2. In this is love,
- a. not that we loved God, - Jo 15:16;
    - i. the total depravity of man - **Ro 3:10-20,23; Eph 2:1-3**
    - ii. The state of hostility toward God
      - **Ro 8:5-8**
      - 1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
      - Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
  - b. but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. - 2:2; Ro 5:8,10; Tit 3:4
    - i. *hilasmos* - atonement, an expiator:--propitiation, covering
      - Ro 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
      - Heb 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
    - ii. Isa 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
  - c. return to vs 9 - that we might live through Him
    - i. we not only have the perfect model of love - Christ in His incarnation
    - ii. The same kind of love has been put in us (Ro 5:5) so that we would do likewise - Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you
3. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- a. Jo 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
  - b. Eph 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
  - c. 1Jo 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.