

ABIDING IN GOD'S LOVE

I. ONLY THOSE WHO ARE BORN AGAIN CAN KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD - 1 John 4:7-8

II. ABIDING IN GOD'S LOVE

A. Abiding means to remain, to continue in, to stay in, to dwell in.
Abiding is absolutely essential for you to be able to live the Christian life.

B. Abiding is one of the main themes in 1 John – it appears 14 times.
1 John 2:6, 1 John 2:14, 1 John 2:24, 1 John 2:27-28, 1 John 3:9,
1 John 3:15, 1 John 3:17, 1 John 3:24, 1 John 4:12-13, 1 John 4:16

C. Keys to abiding in the Lord – God's Word, the Holy Spirit, humility, faith and holiness. Hebrews 12:1-2 – throw off every sin and encumbrance (weight)

D. Abiding in God's love and abiding in God

1. You abide in God's love by abiding in God, and when you abide in God, then you are abiding in God's love for you.

2. Abiding in God's love means you're thinking about God's love for you, you are believing God loves you, and you are aware of God's love for you.

E. God wants His love to be perfected in you. He wants you to be a mature, grown-up Christian. One of the main marks, one of the main signs of a mature Christian is that he is loving, that he loves God, and that he loves people.

III. THE CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN - 1 John 4:17-18

A. A confident Christian is unafraid, bold and courageous - 1 John 2:28, 3:21.

B. A Christian isn't confident because of himself, but because of God. You know you're a child of God, that God is your Father, and that you're righteous in His sight. You are confident in life and in your relationships with people. Psalm 56:3-4, 8-11

C. You are confident in the day of judgment, the judgment that is at the end of the millennial kingdom. You have nothing to fear with regard to this judgment, you can be fully confident of your relationship with God. Acts 17:30, Revelation 20:11-15

D. The confident Christian is not afraid. God's love for you should cast out every bit of fear. If you are righteous in Christ, then you do not have to fear being judged for your sin.

E. Non-Christians should be afraid of this judgement to come. But sad to say, most non-Christians aren't afraid. They don't fear God, they ignore God, they are proud, and they act like God doesn't exist. Revelation 6:12-17; Luke 21:25-27, 12:4-5; Psalm 2, 14, 53

IV. CONFIDENT LIKE CHRIST – 1 John 4:17

A. As believers in Christ we are righteous in Christ, and therefore we are to be bold and confident in the world. We are to act like children of God, because we are children of God. We are not to fear man. Proverbs 28:1

B. As confident Christians we are to do what is right and say what is right. Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 3:21, 5:14

C. Let your mind then be renewed by the great love of God. Meditate on God's love for you. Think about it, pray over it, believe it, and be encouraged by it. Only God can really change your thinking. Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:20-24

V. WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US – 1 John 4:19

TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED,
WHO ARE LOVED IN GOD THE FATHER
AND KEPT FOR JESUS CHRIST:
MERCY, PEACE AND LOVE BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE
Jude 1-2

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is the means to abiding in God's love?
3. What are the keys to abiding in God's love? What keeps you from abiding in God's love?
4. Do you believe you are growing in maturity as a Christian? Why or why not?
5. What is the key to being a confident Christian? Why is this so important?
6. Why are so many unbelievers not afraid of the judgment to come?
7. How can you grow in being a bold and confident Christian?