

Abiding in God and Loving the Brethren

Sermon 12 in the 1 John Series

1 John 4:14-21

Last week we looked again at the first 6 verses – only read verses 7-12, and settled in on the work of the Spirit in verse 13. We saw 5 aspects of the Spirit’s work from John 16.

1. The Holy Spirit is another Paraklete. John 14:16
2. He acts as “the Spirit of Truth” 16:12-13a
3. He guides believers into “all truth” – that needs to be properly understood.
4. He does not speak of Himself (on His own authority), but He speaks what He has heard 16:13b
5. He glorifies Christ 16:14

I. v. 14

A. We have seen and Testify

B. Savior of the World

This describes His mission

This is what He came to do – to save. John 3:16-18.

II. V. 15 -- This is a further elaboration on 4:2.

To confess that Jesus is the Son of God is to affirm all that John has said about Him – and all the Bible says about Him.

And note the connection with “abiding in Him” in v. 13 and this verse.

III. V. 16

A. We have come to know and believe... HOW?

1. Through the testimony of the Spirit v. 13
2. Through the authority of the Apostles (we) who were eyewitnesses v. 14
3. Through the testimony of the church (among us -- whoever confesses) v. 9, 15

B. Two aspects of “abiding in love” are in view here.

1. To continue to love God – and refuse to believe the Devil’s lies.
2. One abiding in love can be assured God abides with him or her.
This is the reason for v. 11 – and a reason love for the brethren is vital.

IV. V. 17

A, Love to God – God’s love to us – and love for the brethren.

v. **16b- 17a** is a short recap of verses **7-12**.

B. Confidence in the Day of Judgment. 4:17b

1. Our confidence is based on the loving relationship that has been given to us by God.
2. This confidence is based on our relationship with God. **17c**
What we are now – children of God **3:2**
3. **17c** -- Who was He in the world? The Son of God.
Who are we in the world? Adopted children of God.

V. V. 18

Covered in our book study -- What does it mean to Fear the Lord? last Spring.

VI. V. 19

This is a family verse.

It’s for sons and daughters who have been adopted!

VII. V. 20-21

If our love for God is real – it will result in love for our brothers.

We need to ever keep **4:9-10** in our minds and hearts.

Then we can make the confession of **4:16**.