

# LOVE WILL DEFEAT FEAR

April 30, 2017

1 Jn 4:17-19 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us.

## I. Background

**John is writing this letter** to help the believer know where they stand in their Christian life and why they can have confidence.

He tells his readers that they can be sure of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is the gift of God's presence in each of our lives.

They can be sure that Jesus is God's Son and their Savior.

They can have confidence of God's love for them.

Love isn't something God has created, rather, it is the heart of His being (God is love).

**John declares** what happens in the believer who has matured in the love of God:

They become more like Him in this present world;

They become more confident, they aren't afraid of God's judgment;

They become less anxious and fearful as they become more loving;

They continue to receive God's love to meet every challenge in life

## II. Word and phrase study of 1Jn 4:16-19

### Review:

1 Jn 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

### 4:16 God is love

**The basic truth that John has been saying - "God is love."**

This truth is revealed in the Word of God. (Ex 20:6; Dt 23:5; 7:12-13; 10:18; Ps 146:8; Pr 3:12; Isa 43:4; 63:9; Jer 31:3; Hos 11:4; 14:4; Rom 9:25; Heb 12:6; Jude 21; Rev 3:19)

It is also revealed through the cross, where Christ died for us.

Jn 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:6-8; Eph 5:2; 1Jn 4:7-11)

### 3 facts of God's love so far discovered in 1Jn:

1. God has said something to us;

"God the Father loves us (you)." [1Jn 3:1-3]

We are not merely students reading a book.

2. God has done something for us;

"God sent His Son to die for us (you)." [1Jn 3:4-8; 4:9-11]

We are not merely spectators watching a deeply moving event.

3. God does something in us.

"God abides in whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God." [1Jn 4:14]

We are participants in the great drama of God's love.

## 1Jn 4:17 “By this,” (stated 12 times in the epistle)

1Jn 2:3 By this we know

that we have come to know Him,  
if we keep His commandments.

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps His word,  
in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

By this we know that we are in Him:

1Jn 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious:  
anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God,  
nor the one who does not love his brother.

1Jn 3:16 We know love by this,  
that He laid down His life for us;  
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1Jn 3:19 We will know by this that we are of the truth,  
and will assure our heart before Him

1Jn 3:24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.  
We know by this that He abides in us,  
by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God:  
every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

1Jn 4:6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us;  
he who is not from God does not listen to us.  
By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1Jn 4:9 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.

1Jn 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us,  
because He has given us of His Spirit.

1Jn 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us,  
so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment;  
because as He is, so also are we in this world.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God,  
when we love God  
and observe His commandments.

## "love is perfected"

**perfected** = from the Gk. word (telos). It implies fullness, maturity, and completion, not sinlessness.  
God's love is perfected in us as we practice love (1Jn 4:12, 16)

There are **4 statements** of the completeness of love in 1Jn

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

1Jn 4:12 if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1Jn 4:17 By this, love is perfected with us, ... Because as He is, so also are we in this world.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear,  
because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

### **How can our love become mature?**

1. Through knowing and doing the word of God (1Jn 2:5).
2. Through loving behaviors and actions with other believers (1Jn 4:12).
3. Through believing who we are in Christ and putting these truths into practice (1Jn 4:17).
4. Through dealing with and overcoming every kind of fear (1Jn 4:18).

### **"with us"**

The preposition with (Gk. meta) is translated:

"with us" (NASB) "in us" (TEV, NJB) "among us" (NKJV, NRSV, NIV, REB)

### **"so that we may have confidence"**

Originally this term (confidence) meant freedom of speech. John uses this (1Jn 2:28; 3:21; 5:14).

It speaks of our boldness in approaching a holy God (Heb 3:6; 10:35).

### **"in the day of judgment,"**

One day all humans will give an account to God for the gift of life.

(2Cor 5:10; Ps 9:7; 96:10-13; 98:9; Mt 25:31-46; Ac 10:42; 17:31; Rom 4:10-12)

Judgment Day is to hold no fear for those in Christ.

1Jn 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1Jn 4:17-18 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; ...

### **"because as He is, so also are we in this world"**

**as He is** (in the heavenly, spiritual realm) so are we in this present world.

Rom 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. (Rom 8:1-9)

1Jn 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Eph 2:21-22 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (Eph 1:20)

Eph 2:6 ... and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph 2:4-6)

**this world** = (the world of humanity in its alienation from God)

This is the natural world in which we now live.

1Jn 2:15-16 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

(as distinct from being in the heavenly world in which God dwells). If we interpret 'in this world' in 4:17 in this way, then the author is explaining that we may have confidence because

## 1Jn 4:18 "There is no fear in love"

### When we come to know God as Father, we no longer fear Him as judge.

Most (if not all) conversions to Christianity involve fear - fear of judgment, fear of condemnation, fear of hell.

God's love completes its work in us so that our fear as we face the day of judgment is removed.

In redemption a wonderful thing happens in the life of redeemed humans - what starts with fear ends in no fear!

Lk 1:74 that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear ...  
(Lk 1:68-79 prophecy of Zacharias when John is dedicated)

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

2Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Jesus told us not to worry (Mt 6:25-34; Jn 14:1).

### 366 times in the Bible God says "fear not!"

Jn 14:27 Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful

### Fear gives power to the devil

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (Job 3:25; 2 Ti 1:7; Prov 29:25)

### Jesus came to render powerless the devil

Heb 2:14-15 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

## Core Fears (from The DNA of Relationships; by Dr. Gary Smalley; chapter 3)

### What we fear is a result of what we feel we can't live without

We Can't Live Without ...	So We Fear ...
Acceptance	Rejection
Grace	Judgment
Connection	Disconnection
Companionship	Loneliness
Success	Failure
Self-Determination	Powerlessness
Understanding	Being Misunderstood
Love	Being Scorned
Validation	Being Invalidated
Competence	Feeling Defective
Respect	Inferiority
Worth	Worthlessness
Honor	Feeling Devalued
Dignity	Humiliation
Commitment	Abandonment

Significance	Feeling Unimportant
Attention	Feeling Ignored
Support	Neglect
Approval	Condemnation
Wanted	Feeling Unwanted
Safety	Danger
Affection	Feeling Disliked
Trust	Mistrust
Hope	Despair
Joy	Unhappiness

**The most common ways we react when we fear that our wants will not be met:**

<b>Reaction</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Withdrawal	You avoid others or alienate yourself without resolution; you sulk or use the silent treatment.
Escalation	Your emotions spiral out of control; you argue, raise your voice, flying into a rage.
Belittling or sarcasm	You devalue or dishonor someone with words or actions; you call your spouse names or take potshots at him or her.
Negative beliefs	You believe your spouse is far worse than is really the case; you see your spouse in a negative light or attribute negative motives to your spouse.
Blaming	You place responsibility on others, not excepting fault; you're convinced the problem is your spouse's fault.
Exaggeration	You make overstatements or enlarge your words beyond bounds or the truth.
Tantrums	You have fits of bad temper.
Denial	You refuse to admit the truth or reality.
Invalidation	You devalue your spouse; you do not appreciate who your partner is, what he or she feels or thinks or does.
Defensiveness	Instead of listening, you defend yourself by providing an explanation.
Clinginess	You develop a strong emotional attachment or dependence on your spouse.
Passive-aggressive	You display negative emotions, resentment, and aggression in passive ways, such as procrastination and stubbornness.
Caretaking	You become responsible for others by giving physical or emotional care and support to the point you are doing everything for your spouse, and your partner does nothing to care for himself or herself.
Acting out	You engage in negative behaviors like drug or alcohol abuse, extramarital affairs, excessive shopping, or overeating.
Over-functioning	You do what others should be doing, and you take responsibility for them.
Fix-it mode	You focus almost exclusively on what is needed to solve the problem.
Complaining	You express unhappiness or make accusations.
Aggression or abuse	You become verbally or physically aggressive, possibly abusive.
Manipulation	You control your spouse for your own advantage.
Anger and rage	You display strong feelings of displeasure or violent and uncontrolled emotions.
Catastrophizing	You use dramatic, exaggerated expressions to depict that the relationship is in danger or that it has failed.
Numbing out	You become devoid of emotion, or you have no regard for others' needs or troubles.

## **"but perfect love casts out fear,"**

**God's promise** to fear not

Ps 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ((Ps 91:5; 112:7-8; Isa 35:4)

Isa 41:10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

## **"fear involves punishment"**

**punishment** is a rare word used only two other times in the NT.

Mt 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

2Pt 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

The **fear of God's wrath** is both temporal (in time) and eschatological (at the end of time).

## **"and the one who fears is not perfected in love."**

Mt 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Mt 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:11-16)

Col 1:28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Jas 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

It is used 19 X in MT (Mt 5:48, 48; 19:21; Rom 12:2; 1Cor 2:6; 13:10; 14:20; Eph 4:13; Phil 3:15; Col 1:28; 4:12; Heb 5:14; 9:11; Jas 1:4, 4, 17, 25; 3:2; 1Jn 4:18)

## **4:19 "We love, because He first loved us"**