

First John

1 Jn. 4:7-16



Sonship



Fellowship



Fruitfulness

1 Jn. 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein 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 ought also to love one another.

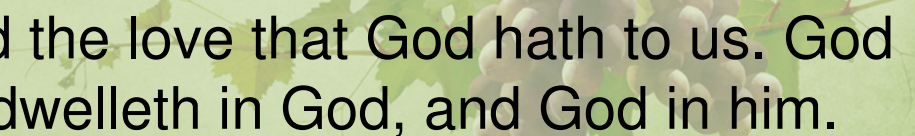
12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.



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(1) Who we should love, 4:7

1 Jn. 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

- God-like love originates with God.
 - God-like love originates with us when we are born-again, and are His children.
 - God-like love is reflected through us as we have fellowship with Him (*ginosko.*)
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(2) Why we should love, 4:8

1 Jn. 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love.**

b. The object of God's love, 4:9-10

(1) The expression of that love, 4:9

1 Jn. 4: 9 **In this was manifested the love of God toward us,** because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

(2) The expectation of that love, 4:10

1 Jn. 4:10 **Herein is love,** not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



Original Word: ἵλασμός

Transliteration: hilasmos

Short Definition: a propitiation, atoning sacrifice

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2434.htm>

1 Jn. 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

2. Duplicated love, 4:11-21

a. Its cause, 4:11-13

(1) God's love perpetuated by us, 4:11

1 Jn. 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.



(2) God's love perfected in us, 4:12-13

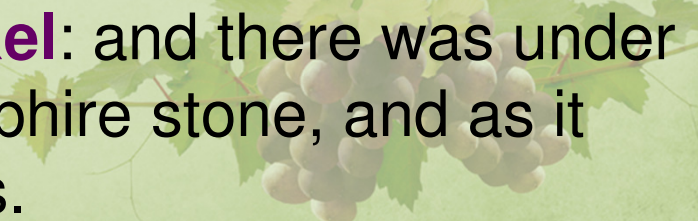
(a) The principle, 4:12

1 Jn. 4:12 **No man hath seen God at any time.** If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Jn. 1:18 **No man hath seen God at any time;** the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Jn. 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;** and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Ex. 24:10 And **they saw the God of Israel:** and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.



Judges 13:22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, **because we have seen God.**

Deut. 34:10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, **whom the LORD knew face to face,**

“...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Original Word: τελειόω

Transliteration: teleioó

Short Definition: I complete, accomplish, make perfect

teleiōō – to consummate, reaching the *end-stage*, i.e. working through the entire process (stages) to reach the *final* phase (*conclusion*). <http://biblehub.com/greek/5048.htm>



Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ:

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do** of his good pleasure.

"The love of God displayed in His people is the strongest apologetic that God has in the world." Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles of John*. London: Pickering & Inglis Ltd., 1970; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986. p. 109.

(b) The process, 4:13

1 Jn. 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.



Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. ...**

14 For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**


15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**

b. Its confession, 4:14-16

(1) The truth of that confession, 4:14

1 Jn. 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.



Jn. 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

(2) The terms of that confession, 4:15

1 Jn. 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

(3) The tone of that confession, 4:16



i. Ringing through our belief, 4:16a
“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love...**”

ii. Resounding in our behavior, 4:16b
“...and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

"Too much 'witnessing' today is a mere mouthing of words. People need an expression of love."_Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. 2 vols. Wheaton: Scripture Press Publications, Victor Books, 1989. p. 520.





Conclusion

1 Jn. 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.



23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.