

# First John

## 1 Jn. 4:17-21



Sonship



Fellowship



Fruitfulness

1 Jn. 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.



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1 Jn. 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in him**; that, when he shall appear, **we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**

1 Jn. 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, **that we may have boldness in the day of judgment**: because as he is, so are we in this world.

"How can a believer know that his love for the Father is being perfected? This paragraph of 1 John [4:17—5:5] suggests four evidences:

1. confidence (4:17-19)
2. honesty (4:20-21)
3. Joyful obedience (5:1-3)
4. victory (5:4-5)

Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. 2 vols. Wheaton: Scripture Press Publications, Victor Books, 1989. p. 520. *Be Real*. pp. 156-172.



- Living in fellowship with God, today, will prepare us for our appearance at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- The maturation of our love relationship with Christ is the key to our fellowship with Him.

c. Its consequence, 4:17-19

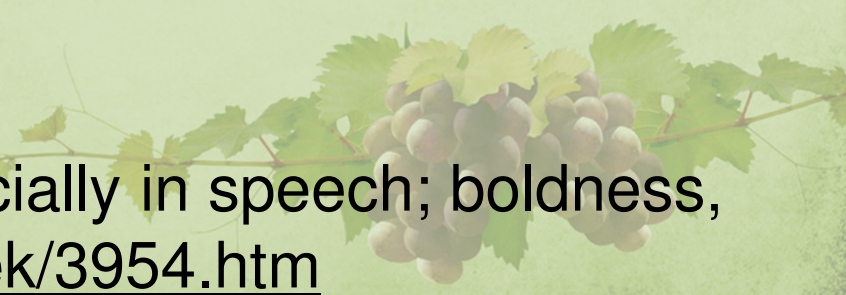
(1) Our boldness, 4:17

1 Jn. 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, **that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:** because as he is, so are we in this world.

Original Word: παρρησία

Transliteration: parrésia

Definition: freedom, openness, especially in speech; boldness, confidence. <http://biblehub.com/greek/3954.htm>



1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.



Rom. 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

“Conscience doth make cowards of us all.”

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Act III, Scene 1.

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.





1 Jn. 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, **that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:** because as he is, so are we in this world.

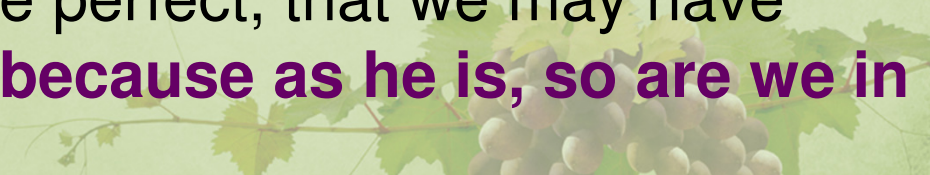
Original Word: τελειόω

Transliteration: teleioó

Definition: (a) as a course, a race, or the like: I complete, finish (b) as of time or prediction: I accomplish, (c) I make perfect; pass: I am perfected.

*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>

1 Jn. 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because as he is, so are we in this world.**



## (2) Our bliss, 4:18

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Rom. 8:15 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.

Heb. 2:15 And deliver them who **through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage**.

2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.



Original Word: κόλασις

Transliteration: kolasis

Definition: chastisement, punishment, torment, perhaps with the idea of deprivation.

*kólasis* (from *kolaphos*, "a buffeting, a blow") – properly, punishment that "fits" (matches) the one punished (R. Trench); *torment* from living in the *dread of upcoming judgment* from *shirking* one's *duty*. <http://biblehub.com/greek/2851.htm>

2 Tim. 4:6 For **I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.**

7 I have fought a good fight, **I have finished my course**, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, **but unto all them also that love his appearing.**

- A Christian who loves others may have other fears, but he need not fear (dread) the Judgment Seat of Christ. The fact that he loves others demonstrates that his relationship with God is essentially what it should be.

Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 **Let all** bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, **be put away from you, with all malice:**

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**



- In order for us to have fellowship with God, we must procure His forgiveness, continually! If we are to love one another, we must cultivate an attitude of forgiveness like our Savior.
- The simplest illustration of love and forgiveness is the continual grace that a parent will show for a child which is continually in need of forgiveness. Mates, and believers, in order to love and fellowship together, must learn to love and forgive.

(3) Our blessedness, 4:19



1 Jn. 4:19 We love **him**, because he first loved us.

New International Version

We love because he first loved us.

New American Standard Bible

We love, because He first loved us.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

We love because He first loved us.

King James Bible

We love **him**, because he first loved us.



## d. Its counterfeit, 4:20-21

### (1) The logic of love, 4:20

1 Jn. 4:20 **If a man say**, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?



This is the last of seven tests in this epistle.

"In the first [1:6] the religious professionalist is not honest with *others*.

In the second [1:8] he is not honest with *himself*.

In the third [1:10] he is not honest with *God*.


In the fourth [2:4] he is not honest with *Christ*.

In the fifth [2:6] he is not honest with the *world*.

In the sixth [2:9] he is not honest with his Christian *brother*.

In the seventh [4:20] he is by implication (ponder it and see) false to *all*."

Baxter, J. Sidlow. *Explore the Book*. 6 vols. in 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1960. Vol. 6, p. 328.





## (2) The law of love, 4:21

1 Jn. 4:21 And this commandment have we from him,  
That he who loveth God love his brother also.





## Conclusion

Rom. 8:35 Who shall **separate us from the love of Christ?** shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**