

Grateful that God is Love

1 John 4:7-21

Unfortunately, some may view God as a tyrant, the Creator spinning things into being and not concerned or someone unloving. He is anything but that! He loves us, He is the Creator of love! In fact, His love is pure and proper, while the world's idea of love is often unpure and perverse. The closer we abide in Christ, the closer that our love looks to the love of Jesus! Think about it for a second. It's impossible to love your enemies apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to love unconditionally, a love that hurts for the lost to know Jesus! A love that wants so badly for them to know, grow, and go for Christ! A love like that of Paul as he conveys in both Romans chapters 9 and 10 that he wished to go to Hell in order that his own people know Jesus! That is an extreme radical love! The more that we are on the vine of Jesus, the more that we will reflect this radical love!

I. Grateful that God is the Provider of Love (1 John 4:4-12)

Illustration (The Source and the Shiner of Love)

God is the source of love (Lighter)

Mankind cannot show proper love without the source (a candle will not shine unless it is lit from the source)

God's nature is love; therefore, we will exhibit love. Demonstrating Christian love confirms the reality of our spiritual life in Christ. Listen to what Jesus tells His followers recorded in John 13:34-35: **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."** I've said this often, "the greatest gauge to how much you love God is shown in how much you love people."

- a. Our love is proof of being reborn in Christ. (vv. 7-8)
- b. God's provision of His Son is proof that He loves us. (vv. 9-10)
- c. God's love is perfected in us as we love others. (vv. 11-12)

II. Grateful that God Gives us Peace Because of His Love (1 John 4:13-18)

Specifically look at verse 17. What confidence we have as we stand before the Creator on Judgement Day! We have an overwhelming peace that the Creator, God Almighty loves us! The word confidence in verse 17 can also be translated as boldness. I want you to picture this. You have unfortunately become tied up with a crime ring unknowingly through your work. The federal agents come in and arrest everyone including you. Thankfully the head of the federal department knows that you weren't a part of this criminal activity although you work at this business. You are given a pardon by the top guy! Christian, you have been given a pardon because of your faith in Jesus Christ by God the Creator Himself! You can approach the Judge's

bench with boldness and confidence, you will not suffer the death penalty, you will live forever!

III. Grateful that God Grants Us Love as a Product of Being His (1 John 4:19-21)

Adam Clarke, 1700-1800 theologian wrote: This is the foundation of our love to God. 1. We love him because we find he has loved us. 2. We love him from a sense of obligation and gratitude. 3. We love him from the influence of his own love; from his love shed abroad in our hearts, our love to him proceeds. It is the seed whence our love springs.

- a. To love God and not man, is to pretend. (vv. 19-20)
- b. To love God and man, is to practice God's nature. (v. 21)

This thanksgiving, we can have gratitude for the fact that God is the provider of love, that His love gives us peace, and that love is a natural product of our relationship with God.