

God's Fellowship (Series)

(1 John Chapter 4:7-21)

Lesson #5 “Fellowshipping God Through His Love”

Scripture: 1 John 1:7 “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Introduction:

Have you seen the show C.O.P.S? This show takes you with policeman on routine calls they get during the day.

They respond to all kinds of different problems.

- Boyfriend and girlfriend arguments
- Husbands beating wives
- Gang violence
- Neighbor arguments

These are endless battles fueled by HATE

- And hate is a sickness that has overcome our society like it has many before.

But God has a prescription

- *His Love

Transitional Statement:

A person can't hate in one breath and love in another. In our lesson today God will point out that to have fellowship with Him is to live inside His love....that is Jesus Christ.

Lesson:

I. As children, born of God we are to “love one another”

1 John 4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

A. God tells us to love each other

- Rather than some word study lets listen to Paul describe the very love that God is talking about.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

-Here in our text when God says to love each other it is a present tense verb, which speaks of a continuous repeated action.

-What if the other person becomes obstinate or even nasty?
*Continue to Love

-What if the other person persecutes us and says all manner of evil against us?
*Continue to Love

-What if the other person steals a power tool from us
*Continue to Love

B. Then God tells us, specifically, why we are to love each other.

1. We are to love each other because love is from God.

-The word "From" has to do with origin
-Love has its beginning with God

-And more than a beginning it is because "God is Love"

-It defines who He is.

-And all things have been made from that love and are meant to exist and have their being inside of it.

2. Also, because we are born of God

-Born spiritually in the waters of baptism

-John chapter 3

-At baptism, we become His children

-And as children we are extensions of the love we are created in
-Images, or representations of Him on earth

3. And, if we love each other

-We know Him

-“know” here marks a beginning of knowledge with God.

*To claim any knowledge of God outside of love is simply error

3. We Love Not,

-Because it feels good....?

-Because it makes for a peaceful world?

-Because it's the right thing to do?

-Because it helps others to be happy?

*These things all might be true but they are not given as the reason

***We love because God is Love and we are His children**

II. The person who is not born of God

1 John 4:8 *“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

- An absence of love in a person
 - i.e. shows they do not even begin to understand God
 - For God is Love and cannot be understood outside of love.

III. God’s love has been made known in us by His Son.

1 John 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. “*

- A. Outside of Christ there is only death
 - Because outside of Christ there is no worthy sacrifice to pay for our sins.
 - When anyone tries to live life without Christ
 - “They are like dead men walking”
- B. God has shown us the extent of His love by:
 - Allowing His son to die for us.....To die in our place
 - i.e. God Gave part of Himself as a sacrifice so we might live.
- C. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*
- D. John 15:13 *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”*
- E. **And, insomuch as, we have accepted the redemptive work of Christ through the waters of baptismGod’s love has been made known in us!**

IV. Love is defined from God’s vantage point

1 John 4:10 *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

- A. God’s Love is not to be understood from our angle of thinking
- B. But, God’s love is defined through His action of sending His son to atone for our sins.
 - When there was nothing in us to deserve it!
- C. **Our Focus is suppose to be on Jesus the Christ**

V. We are obligated to love the same way.

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

- Ought is a Greek word that really has to do with an obligated responsibility.
- We are act like our father.....do the things He does**
 - BE LIKE HIM!**

VI. If love fills our hearts, then God dwells in us

1 John 4:1-12-13 "No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

A. No one has seen God, but if we love each other God dwells in us
-The tangible really doesn't matter when God spiritually sets up camp inside our hearts.

B. And if God is willing to dwell in us.
-That means His love is completed in us.

*"His Love" has already been defined as Christ.....and the point is that Christ makes us complete before the father

C. And as Christians, God dwelling in us is confirmed through the Spirit He gave us.

-Verse 13 says " *By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*"

-When did we get this Spirit?

-Acts 2:38 "Peter said to them, " Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

*AT BAPTISM INTO CHRIST

VII. Jesus is the Savior of the world

1 John 4:17-17 "We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

-Here establishment of the fact that Jesus is the Christ sent by God comes from the Apostles who were eye witnesses of the fact and confirmed it with the miraculous powers granted them by God to do so." (Mark 16:20).

Verse 15 "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

-Whoever convicted and lives by the fact that Jesus is the Christ

-Basically whoever accepts the gift that God has given....Jesus

*Then God dwells in him

Verse 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.

-The Apostles state here that they have come to know (understanding) and believe in (Trust) the love which God had for them.....**WHICH WAS JESUS**

Verse 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."

***BY TRUSTING IN JESUS WE FIND COMPLETENESS!**

*To what end.....confidence in the day of judgment, when we stand before God Almighty....because we stand with His son!!!

*So we are to be like Him

VIII. The platform of Love is not fear

1 John 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. 19 We love, because He first loved us.

- The driving force of love is not fear
 - Fear has to do with punishment and torment
 - *The driving force of love is desire!!!**

- Complete love casts out fear.

IX. Hate and Love can not fill the same mind.

1 John 4:20 "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."

***Here, John tells us, you can't love God and hate your brother at the same time.**

**Verse 21 "And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."*

Conclusion:

What wonderful love the father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God. (1 John 3:1)

BORN OUT OF SUCH GREAT LOVE!!!

Have you accepted God's awesome gift of love.....Jesus

Have you received His spirit in the waters of Baptism?

Or are you wrestling with hate in your heart today?

Christ stands ready to perfect you in love if that is your desire.