



Love Without Fear: The Perfecting of God's Love in Us (1 John 4:12 - 18)

Study Notes Handout: April 29th

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us... There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. - 1 John 4:16ff

The gospel is only good news if it gets there on time. - Carl F.H. Henry

Introduction: Synopsis of the Sermon

The perfecting of God's love in us takes time. It takes place in the relationships He leads us into. As we increasingly live in Him and let Christ rule in us, the proof is seen in how we love. John teaches that our families, friendships (and all other relationships) are 'laboratories of love' designed to test and perfect the love of God in us so that we might be ready to meet Him on the Day of Judgement without fear. Love is serious business. It reveals the true condition of our hearts, which determines our eternal destiny... *because in this world we are like Him* (4:17).

Sermon Outline:

1. The Perfecting of God's Love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (4:12 - 15)

2. The Perfecting of God's Love: Knowing, Trusting and Living in Love (4:16)

3. The Perfecting of God's Love: No Fear of Judgement (4:17 - 18)

Practical Things to Do and Discuss: See Reverse Side for Helpful Tips on Applying this Sermon.



Practical Things to Do and Discuss

1 John 4:12 - 18

Consider doing one or more of the following suggestions this week:

- For Families / Couples - This week after sharing a meal together have someone read 1 John 4:16 - 21. Then go around the table and have each person complete the following sentences:
I want our family to be a place where there is no fear of _____.
Instead I want us to love one-another by _____.
- For Singles - Try to connect with a friend (s) for a meal this week. Read 1 John 4:16 - 21. Then share with each other how you would complete the following sentences:
I want to nurture the kind of friendships where there is no fear of _____.
Instead I want to love others by _____.
- For Those Taking Part in the Mystery Meal - If you are either a host or a guest at the WRBC 'Mystery Meal' this evening, consider discussing the following question together:
- What place does Hospitality have in forming loving friendships in the Church Family and in the Community? What holds us back from practicing hospitality more often?
- For you to Talk with God about Privately - If you are a Christian then God lives in you (4:12) and He has given you His Spirit (4:13) who enables you to live in the love of God and show His love to others (4:16). In prayer this week, ask God to show you how you can love someone in a practical way that does not serve your needs or your agenda, but someone else's.
Lord, I want your love to be made complete in and through me, so who would you have me show that love to this week by serving them, helping them or sharing with them?
