



**The Love of God**  
**Is It**  
**IN YOU?**

Saturday, 4/24 at 4:00 | Sunday, 4/25 at 9:00

Fourth Sunday of Easter – 2021

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we are continuing our series in **1 John**:

- **Part 1** – What makes our joy complete? Do you recall the answer? *When others also believe in Jesus!*
- **Part 2** – Differences: We are children of God through Jesus, *but not everyone is currently a child of God!*

Today, in **part 3**, we are checking for the love of God. As we pull the dipstick on our car to check the oil level in the engine, *so today we will check inside of us for the love of God!*

1. **Believers Follow Jesus' Example:** <sup>16</sup> **We know love by this, that [Jesus] laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren** *[fellow believers]. //* Much in the Bible talks about love – God's love for us and, **in response**, *our love for God and for others!* Also, love is radical: Jesus laid down for us, *and we are called to do the same for others!*

2. **Unbelievers Sit on their Hands:** <sup>17</sup> **But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?** // Think about today's sermon title... **The Love of God – is it in you?** Think about it like this:
- We have the goods: That means we have enough to help those who are in need.
  - Our reaction to people in need: Are we **▶**taking action to share what we have **or** **▶**closing our heart?
3. **Love Includes Action and Truth:** <sup>18</sup> **Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.** // Thus, *with action that is sincere!*
- Saying, "I love you": Popular today, *but not Biblical*. Love is not a **noun**, but a **verb**, *so love includes action!*
  - Action ingredients:
    - US: We **▶**have the goods, **▶**care about others, and **▶**are paying attention to others.
    - PERSON IN NEED: *We take action to help!*
4. **Love Points to Saving Faith:** <sup>19</sup> **We will know by this [by our love] that we are of the truth [thus, forgiven through Jesus], and will assure our heart before Him <sup>20</sup> in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.**
- How does our heart condemn us? God's law shows us our sin and what we deserve: *condemnation!*
  - How does God assure us? As we take sincere and loving action to help those in need, *we know that is coming from God's love – which is in us.* That sincere

and loving action points to these facts: ♣ We trust in Jesus 😊, ♣ we have God's forgiveness 😊, and ♣ we are no longer under God's condemnation 😊!

5. **Two Blessings of Saving Faith:** <sup>21</sup> **Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God [He is our merciful Father]; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. // When God's love is in us, we desire to keep His commandments!**

- a. **"confidence before God":** <sup>NAU</sup> **Hebrews 4:15-16** "...we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One [that is, Jesus] who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with **confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may... find grace to help in time of need."
- b. **"whatever we ask we receive from Him":** **"whatever" does not mean anything, but it does mean everything that agrees with God's Word and will.** So let us ♣ be confident, ♣ know God's Word, and ♣ ask with boldness!

6. **Two Important Commands:** <sup>23</sup> **This is [God's] commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. // In some ways the Bible is so simple, yet it can be quite complex. Verse 23 helps us to focus on two important commands:**

- a. **"believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ":** By ♣ God's grace and ♣ the work of the Spirit, ☹ we know

who Jesus is, ☞ we know what He has done for us, and  
☞ we trust in Him as our Savior!

- b. “love one another”: We take *sincere* and even *sacrificial* action to help those who are in need!

7. **Remaining in God and Knowing It:** <sup>24</sup> **The one who keeps [God’s] commandments abides [remains] in Him, and [God] in him. We know by this that [God] abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

- a. Remaining in God: <sup>NAU</sup> **John 14:23** Jesus [said], “If anyone loves Me, he will keep [obey] My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” Compare 1 John 1:6-7.
- b. Knowing it: The key Person helping us to know we are **right with God through Jesus** is the Holy Spirit. How does He communicate with us? *Through the Bible!*

**Conclusion:**

- **Truth** – God’s love is in some people, *but not in all people.*
- **Relevance** – When God’s love is in us, *we will take sincere action to help people in need.*
- **Inspiration** – God’s awesome action for us **should move us to act on behalf of others!**

**Let Us Pray:** Father in heaven, now that we are forgiven and in possession of the goods, *move us to take sincere action!*