

True Fellowship With God Part IV  
*Requires a Biblical View of Love*  
(1 John 2:7-17)

**Introduction:**

1. The evidence of God's love can be seen throughout the Scriptures:
  - When Adam and Eve sinned by doing the one thing God told them not to do, God in his Divine love provided a covering of an animal skin as a means of atonement.
    - 1) He did this because He \_\_\_\_\_ them
    - 2) God could have destroyed them but He didn't, and He chose by His Divine will to accept the sacrifice of an innocent animal to cover their shame, knowing that the sacrifice of His Son on the cross would be the ultimate covering (propitiation) for all of mans sin. (Genesis 3:15, 21)
  - When (during the days of Noah) the wickedness of man was so perverse, God's \_\_\_\_\_ was seen through His willingness to save man, rather than completely destroy him. God had Noah build an ark as a means of Divine protection, for not just Noah and his family, but for the whole of His creation.
    - 1) God \_\_\_\_\_ His creation and He declared it to be good (Genesis 1:21,25)
    - 2) God \_\_\_\_\_ mankind and this was evidenced in His recognition of the faith of Noah who not only had a proper \_\_\_\_\_ to God but he also had a proper \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is evidenced in His patience with His chosen people (those descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) known as Israelites. In spite of their continued rebellion, His plan of redemption (Genesis 3:15) would come to pass through the lineage of David, as a Savior (Jesus Christ) would be born (Galatians 4:4-5), who will take upon Him the sins of the whole world (I John 2:2) and save those whose faith rests in Christ and Christ alone. (Acts 4:12)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of God also extends to those outside of the commonwealth of Israel and is evidenced in His response to Jonah; “Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand? (Jonah 4:11)
  - It would be at the cross, where the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is fully revealed to the whole of mankind, when Jesus declared these words; “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me” (Matthew 27:46) and also these words; “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is probably best summed up in this way; “For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)
2. There is however, a love that God hates which is a love for the \_\_\_\_\_, or perhaps best understood as a love of \_\_\_\_\_. This too will be addressed by John in this same text:
- The Apostle John records these words to help us understand this; “Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world” (I John 2:15-16)
  - Paul says; “Be imitators of God as beloved children” and he goes on to say; “For you were formally darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead, even expose them” (Ephesians 5:1, 8-11)

## The Love that God Loves (I John 2:7-14)

1. To love as God loves requires a new and fresh \_\_\_\_\_ of an old truth. (I John 2:7)
  - This is precisely what Jesus taught:
    - 1) “You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy, but I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven” (Matthew 5:43-45)
    - 2) “You shall love the Lord God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is greatest and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40)
    - 3) “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27)
    - 4) “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35)
    - 5) “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you” (John 15:12)
  - This is what John had in mind when he wrote:
    - 1) “Now I ask you lady, not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one which we had from the beginning, that we love one another” (II John 5)
    - 2) “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (I John 4:7)
    - 3) “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (I John 4:11)

- Loving others is a commandment that stands above the rest and is the fulfillment of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 13:8-10)
- The commandment to love one another is embedded in our hearts from the moment we embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. (I John 3:14, John 13:35, Romans 5:5, I Thessalonians 4:9)
- Paul defines love this way (**I Corinthians 13:4-8a**; *from the ESV*)
  - 1) Love is \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Love is \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) Love does not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) Love is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) Love does not \_\_\_\_\_ on its own \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6) Love is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7) Love does not \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 8) Love \_\_\_\_\_ all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things, and \_\_\_\_\_ all things.
  - 9) Love never \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Apostle Peter also wrote about the importance of love; "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed that is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God" (I Peter 1:22-23). He also writes these words later in his first Epistle; "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins". (I Peter 4:8)

2. To love as God loves requires that we follow the \_\_\_\_\_ that He has provided.  
(I John 2:8)

- The love of God is at work already and He has set before us a perfect model for us to imitate - \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:1-8).

1) Paul encouraged the Philippian believers to maintain their unity by being \_\_\_\_\_ toward one another for he said; "Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete, by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfish or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:1-4)

2) Paul describes this attitude of love that is found in Christ (our Greatest example), for he states; "Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God, a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)

- Take note of the people Jesus showed love to:

1) The tax collector and sinners (Luke 15:1)

2) The sinful woman (Luke 7:36-39)

3) Those who were seeking to know the truth like Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)

4) Common everyday people (Mark 8:1-9)

5) Jesus even loved His enemies (Luke 6:27)

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the standard/model for how we are to love (John 13:34)

3. To love as God loves requires a new \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 2:9-14)

- Since our fellowship is with God then it stands to reason that we (as brothers and sisters in Christ) should be in fellowship with one another.
- John once again uses the contrast of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to illustrate his point
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ goes together with \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ goes together with \_\_\_\_\_
- The local church is a place where \_\_\_\_\_ can be practiced. It is where believers can and should intentionally practice genuine fellowship with one another and that same fellowship is with the Father, the Son and the Spirit.
  - 1) The church is intended to be a living \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) The church is not intended to be a cold and dead \_\_\_\_\_
- John's view of the Christian love ("The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in darkness, and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes" – I John 2:9-10) was probably influenced by the lesson that Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount about the importance of right relationships between those who are worshippers of God. (Matthew 5:21-26)
  - 1) Don't just \_\_\_\_\_ you love your brother or sister in Christ
  - 2) Instead, \_\_\_\_\_ that you love your brother or sister in Christ
- I think that what John is telling us here is that a Christian can see much more clearly when he shows love to his brother or sister in Christ, because to do so means he/she is walking in the Light which keeps us from stumbling.
- It is far better to be a \_\_\_\_\_ stone than a \_\_\_\_\_ block!

## **The Love that God Hates (I John 2:15-17)**

1. John makes this very clear to us; “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him” (I John 2:15)
  - The “world” that John is referring to is all things that are opposed to God
    - 1) It is the \_\_\_\_\_ system of belief that was established by Satan since the early days of man’s creation when he attempted to plant doubt in the minds of Adam and Eve by persuading them to rebel and follow him rather than God. (Genesis 3:1-7)
    - 2) This system of belief has perpetuated itself into a complete rebellion against God and all things holy.
    - 3) It is complete and total hostility toward God as James declares; “Ye adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world, makes himself an enemy of God” ( James 4:4)
    - 4) The prince/ruler of this present world is \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 12:31, Eph. 6:11-12)
  - This false system (the world) established by Satan, and ruled by Satan is not where our allegiance as Christians should be.....as Paul declares; “Our citizenship is in heaven from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20). Our allegiance is with the Father who provides all of the resources we need to live on this earth until Jesus returns to establish His rule and cast Satan and his followers into their final place of destruction.
  - “The world is always a seductive influence which Christians should continually resist” (John 15:18-19). “The world competes for the love of Christians and one cannot love it and the Father at the same time”. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Volume 2 – page 891)

2. John helps his readers understand exactly what he means by worldly pursuits by giving several examples that identify this false system of belief (I John 2:15)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of sinful man which is the pursuit of illicit, perverted and unholy behavior. (Romans 1:18-32, Galatians 5:19-21)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the eyes which is the desiring or coveting of those things we know to be wrong but pursue them anyway.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_
3. There are natural and holy pursuits that God wishes us to follow and He empowers us to accomplish this through the Holy Spirit of promise:
  - The follower of Christ becomes partakers of a divine nature; “For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust” (II Peter 1:4)
  - The means by which we accomplish a pursuit of holiness is by conforming ourselves to that which is holy and righteous; “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed, by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect.” (Rom. 12:2)
4. The unbeliever, however is blind to such spiritual pursuits; “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (I Cor. 2:14)
5. The one whose life is shaped by \_\_\_\_\_ to God will not be concerned with what he/she might miss from the passing of the world and its influences. (Jn. 2:17)
  - “The world is passing away and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (John 2:17)
  - “Only one life, - twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last”