

“It Only Makes Sense!”

1 John 4:7-5:3

Intro. – Sacramento, CA, the local telephone company has a service center. Most telephone companies do. This is where phone calls for repairs, appointments for installations etc. are received. Well, in Sacramento, CA the phone company’s service center has, listen to this, an unlisted number. This makes absolutely no sense!

Springfield, IL, funeral director Philip Bish heard a coffin salesman criticizing a competitor by saying, “But our coffin is lined with silk. His coffin is lined with synthetic material which may cause skin irritation!”

New York City, NY a record number of people were bitten by rats (total of 229). This, however is nothing in view of the fact in the same year in New York City 892 people were bitten by other New Yorkers.

Admittedly, all three of these illustrations don’t make a lot of sense. That’s the point I want to make. The logic of this world seems to be on an eternal vacation. Things are constantly happening that don’t make sense. In short, the nonsense of the world far outweighs the sense of man’s relationships with God and with each other. The need to make sense out of this nonsensical world goes without being said. But, where is one to turn in order to make sense out of this nonsense?

Our text makes clear that God loves us and we in turn ought to love Him. What the inspired author is saying only makes sense. Herein lies the source for making sense out of nonsense – v 19 *“We love, because He first loves us.”*

Purpose: to hammer down this principle – the logic of love

I We Will be BORN of God (v 7)

- “love is the surest test of birth from God” – certainly makes sense, that if one claims to be of Christ (Christian) it only makes sense the following will happen in our lives:

A. God Must be Our Father

1. “Begotten” = “become a father or bring forth... produce.”
2. In sense ALL are children of the Creator – but all have forfeited that privilege through choice sin.
3. If we love God, we WILL truly make Him our Father...

B. Must be Born Again

1. Nicodemus (Pharisee) came to Jesus at night (why at night?)...
2. Jesus told Nicodemus, “must be born again”
3. Nicodemus bulks... does one enter mother’s womb... -- Jesus replies, “Must be born of water and Spirit in order to enter the Kingdom of God.”
4. This rebirth spoke of is a direct reference to one’s immersion into Christ... It is a rebirth that takes place in those who really love the Lord...
5. Illus. – show me a fire that doesn’t produce heat and I will show you a rebirth that doesn’t produce love in God as our Father.
6. Jesus said, “You must be born again,” yet, this rebirth is impossible without love for God.

Herein is the LOGIC OF LOVE = if we love God the way we ought we will be born of God!

II We Will KNOW God (v 9)

- “God is love” = never was more meaning put in so few words

A. Knowing God is Essential to Salvation

1. We cannot come to God’s grace in the dark or by chance.
2. Our God is our “light and salvation” (Psalm 27:1).
3. Upon our acceptance of His grace we are being “renewed in knowledge according to the image of the One who created us.” (Colossians 3:10)
4. 1 John 1:5 makes clear apart from the Lord there is no light or salvation.

B. Loving God is Essential to Salvation

1. God's desire for us is that we get to know Him by loving as He loves.
2. All we have been taught, all we have gathered from the learned and the libraries is NOT knowledge of God unless we really do love God.
3. "He who loveth not – knoweth not = i.e. if one has no true acquaintance with God, means there is no understanding or appreciation for God!

The Logic of Love = to be lacking in love to God is to be lacking in knowledge of God, which in turn means lacking in salvation – it only makes sense!

III We Will Love the BRETHREN (v 11)

- v 11 "one another" = brothers/sisters in Christ, those whom we rightly call *brethren*

A. God Loves the Brethren

1. He Who is far exalted above anyone else, has loved those who are so inferior and so unworthy of His concern and love...
 - such makes clear we ought to love these as well since everyone is on the same level
2. The brethren are the redeemed – His children by virtue of being redeemed by His blood!
3. Who then can claim eternal life without loving those with the same life by virtue of the same divine blood?!
4. Put straightforwardly – no man can be a Christian who does not love Christians!

B. Love of the Brethren Reflects God's Spirit

1. If the Spirit of God is reigning/ruling in our lives, He will be seen in our love for one another.
2. Failure to love the brethren is just contrary to the Spirit of God – rather than manifesting the fruit of the Spirit it shows the deeds of the flesh as listed in Galatians 5:19.

Logic of Love = The Father loves His children = we ought in turn to love brethren = it only makes sense!

IV We Will Have HOLY PEACE (v 18)

A. Fear Distresses Our Souls

1. Romans 5:1 "*Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"
2. "Fear involves punishment" = the guilt of sin sends terror to all in the presence of Holy God!
3. It is this kind of fear that shows a sadly lacking faith and love in Him.

B. Faith and Love are Indispensible Companions

1. When true faith and love come together the blessed result is holy peace.
2. He/she whose sins are covered by the blood of Christ, who understand this and who love God because of it, having nothing to fear both now and for eternity!
3. The redeemed who are in His presence, filled with His love – they have nothing to fear... The redeemed here filled with His love also have nothing to fear – WE HAVE HIS WORD!

The Logic of Love = love God and trust God the way we ought to and there will be no fear – *perfect love cast all fear away* = it only makes sense!

V We Will Joyfully OBEY (v 5:3)

A. Evidence of True Love

1. The doing of God's will constitutes true love.
2. We do good works NOT to be saved... we do good works BECAUSE we are saved!
 - Illus. – fruit not on the root of trees; yet, a well rooted tree will in time bring forth fruit.
3. Want to really prove your love and devotion to the Lord? We then will do what the Father ask us to do! We will do His bidding. We will obey His commands. We will be His faithful servants!

B. His Commands Are Not Burdensome

1. "Burdensome" = "heavy or difficult to bare"

2. God's laws (commands) are not unreasonable... or beyond our ability... or oppressive... whatever He commands of us you can be sure it is for our own good and not repressing us from FUN!
3. It's easy to obey the Lord when our hearts are right:
 - a. Illus. – those whose hearts are right are those who endeavor in sincerity to keep His commandments and not complaining that such is unreasonable.
 - b. Illus. – no man has yet to hear a true child of God say His commands were a pain in the neck..
4. Any complaints = “God is imposing improper restraints... His laws are unreasonable... divine government is one of severity and injustice.
5. Is it a pain to worship and serve the Lord God Almighty?!

The Logic of Love = to love God as we ought will lead to joyous compliance to His will – it only makes sense!

Conclusion: The logic of love = God has chosen to win our hearts and loyalty by love and not by law.

Clarence Francis: “You can buy a man's time; you can buy his physical presence at a given place; you can even buy a measured number of his/her skillful muscular motions per hour. But you cannot buy enthusiasm... You cannot buy initiative... You cannot buy loyalty... You cannot buy the devotion of hearts or souls...”

Jesus did everything necessary to merit our love/devotion. He has more than earned it. The question is, are we willing to give Him our love in return? The Logic of Love says – IT ONLY MAKES SENSE!