



Perfect Love

John Blackmon **Meansville Baptist Church** November 7, 2021

OT Reference: Deut. 6:4 **NT Reference:** Mt. 22: 37 – 39; Mk. 12:30 – 31; John 13:34 – 35; Luke 10:25 – 37; Rom. 5:8, 8:1 – 39; 1 John 2:28

→ We think we're cowardly _____ in need of courageous hearts when we're actually corroded _____ in need of compassionate hearts.

1. How do I know **who is** a true follower of Jesus Christ?
2. How do I know **I am** a true follower of Jesus Christ?
3. Am I _____ of God's judgement?
4. Am I _____ towards others?

1 John 4:17 – 21: ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot^[a] love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

In this text, the Apostle John concludes his admonition to love by describing what God's love _____ as it is received from God and lived out in His people.

For us today, because we have been loved by God we also can and should be loving others in order to obey His **commandment** to love.

Simple: We love because He first _____ us.

"God's transforming love enables believers to love others, which fulfills the command to love God. Being reborn through faith in Christ entails loving others who share such faith."
– Karen Jobes

➤ **His love is made _____ in us. (vs. 17)**

➤ **His love casts out _____. (18)**

"When God's love has reached its intended goal and accomplished its perfect work, fear before God is driven out and the dread of punishment is vanquished." – Danny Akin

➤ **His love ensures that we _____ love. (19)**

➤ **His love _____ our inconsistency. (20)**

"It is a false boast when anyone says that he loves God but neglects his image which is before his eyes." – John Calvin

➤ **His love is the basis of our _____ to love. (21)**

John 13:34 – 35: ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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