



May 20

Passage: 1 John 4:7-21

READ & DIG.

Read 1 John 4:7-21. Love. John has already written to us about Love in previous chapters. We were considering how to test the spirits yesterday & know they were of God, today we are considering Love as a defining Christian characteristic. John McArthur points out that John shares 5 reasons WHY Christians should love. Let's walk you through those 5 reasons in scripture together.

Why Christians Love 1! (V.7-8)

We love because God is Love. Love comes from Him. If we are His and we abide in Him, love is a natural overflow. Loveless=Godless.

Why Christians Love 2! (v.9-11)

We love to follow Christ's example. We are told of his love for us by leaving perfection and coming to earth to die a brutal death for US! V9-10 explains what Christ did for us, and V 11 says now you should love others because God loved us! We are to be imitators of Christ...1 Cor. 11:1.

Why Christians Love 3! (V.12)

We love because right now Christ is invisible, not here physically. He is here in Holy Spirit which is seen and displayed through us. Pastor Stephen talks to us about our story as our testimony. We, you, me, the Church - we are to love to share Christ with others. Why would they want to surrender their life to Christ if all they see are unloving, mean Christians that live double lives? Love to lead others to Christ.

Why Christians Love 4! (V.13-16)

We love because it is a defining characteristic of a Christian...little Christ. This explains that love is part of KNOWing that you are saved. You belong to Him. This is evidence...remember the testing the spirits in the first part of this chapter? Well, if you are taking the am I a Christian test, LOVE would be answer d. all of the above. Everything you do should be rooted in love. It proves He abides in you.

Why Christians Love 5! (V.17-18)

We love because it helps us find confidence in the judgment of Christ. We might find ourselves doubting our salvation from time to time. 1 John instructs that we can KNOW we belong to Him through these defining characteristics, and love is one of those. As we find the confidence in Him to KNOW we belong to Him because we are displaying the characteristics of Him, we begin to have confidence In Judgment day, when we will bow before Him in honor and reverence to answer for the times we loved and the times we did NOT love like Him.

Wrap it Up! (V.19-21)

I love that John wraps up this chapter in these 3 verses so plainly. 1. We love because He loved us first! God is the author of LOVE! 2. Truth vs Lies - again just like the beginning, but this time it's not false teachers. It Is US! We are the liars if we don't love others! How can you hate people you see in flesh now and say you love someone you haven't ever seen in the flesh. Ouch! Salvation assurance alert! Know you are His by the love you show! 3. Ok folks, I am not just saying this stuff, Christ COMMANDS LOVE to prove you are His. LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS! LOVE BIG! Period. Just Love!

Apply & GO

So what now? What do we do with this? Always remember. God's Word means what it means. There is no "what does this mean to you, and to you, and to you." That's wrong. The Bible means what it means. How we apply it may be different, specifically. It means what it means.

SO...let me ask you. What will you do after hearing this truth? What can we learn about God? What can we learn about His Word?

What can we learn about love? Ask yourself, do I love for all the right reasons? How will I walk in love today?