

The Reflection

1 John 4:11-21

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I. Source: Love Abides (vs. 11-14)

- a. Love is a command v.11
 - i. Love- - **to have a warm regard for and interest in another, cherish, have affection for, love**
 - 1. Also constitutes a fellowship with other believers and God
 - ii. This is based on the “fact” of God’s Love.
 - iii. It is an exhortation, it is expected
 - iv. It is duty of those who abide in God
- b. Our God is invisible but Abides v.12
 - i. This is written in defense to the heretical members of the community
 - 1. Possibly the Gnostics
 - 2. They did not value God’s character of love
 - 3. They also claimed to have visions of God
 - ii. It is impossible to have seen God and not express love
 - iii. God is not seen but evident by how we love
- c. God is not seen but indwells 12-15
 - i. Abides- remains-stay also can mean intimate relationship or fellowship
 - ii. Love is complete by the communities obedience to the command of love
 - 1. Obedience create intimate fellowship or relationship
 - iii. He has given us the Holy Spirit as His indwelling presence
 - 1. The Holy Spirit is God and same in Character therefore love is indwelling us
 - iv. Because we have Testified
 - 1. Jesus as God’s Son
 - 2. Saved the World

II. How: Gospel of Love (vs. 16-18)

- a. Confess that Jesus is God’s Son
- b. Believed in God’s love for us
 - i. Jesus died on the Cross so God could abide
 - ii. God’s love was an action of sacrifice
 - 1. He who abides loved us with His sacrifice and God is love therefore we must love
- c. Confidence in the Day of Judgment

- i. By Jesus' death we have confidence
 - 1. 1 John 2:28 we will not shrink away
- ii. The Holy Spirit seals us and identifies us Eph 4:30
- iii. There is no fear in judgment
 - 1. God's love for us removes fear for those confess and believe
 - 2. God's love is complete in Jesus death and resurrection

III. Result: The Reflection of God's Love (vs. 19-21)

- a. We love because He first loved us
- b. Can't hate your brother and love God
 - i. God's indwelling is evident by how you other whom you see
 - ii. You can't experience God's love and not love others
- c. Love God and love others