

FIRST JOHN 4:13-21

“Perfect love casts out fear”

09 & 12 May 2024

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Discourse structure of 1 John

Part 1: Our Fellowship with God 1.1 – 2.17

Part 2: Our Adversaries 2.18 – 3.18

Part 3: Our Christian Faith 3.19 – 5.5

VIII. We Have Assurance 3.19-24

IX. We have God’s Spirit 4:1-6

X. We Have God’s Love 4.7-12

XI. We Have the Saviour 4.13-21

XII. We have the Christ 5.1-5

Part 4: Our Confidence with God 5.6-21

Greek Papyrus 09 = Oxyrhynchus 402. Egypt, copied in the third century CE. Published 1903.



Front: 1 John 4:11-12



Back: 1 John 4:14-17

His Spirit

¹³ By this we know that we abide in [God] and he in us, because he has given {~gave} us of his Spirit. *ESV*

- “Know” = (*ginosko*) usually by experience
- “Abide” = stay with
- “In” = Gk *en*, relational particle
- “Of” ≈ Gk *ek*, ‘from’
- “Spirit” = himself, invisible person

His Spirit

- testifies to our Spirit that we are his, Ro 8:16
- bears fruit = mature character, Ga 5:22-23
- gives gifts to speak, to serve, 1 Pe 4:10-11
- helps us to pray and to praise, 1 Co 14:15
- teaches what to say when needed, Lk 12:12
- warns of danger, Ac 2:11

The Savior

¹⁴ And we have seen {~saw} and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

- “Have seen” = we apostles = eyewitnesses.
- “Testify” = report what we witnessed.
- “Father” = Invisible God in heaven.
- “Son” = God in a visible body = Jesus.
- “Savior” = who rescues from devil & death.
- “World” = lost people.

Greek object complement

- “The Father sent the Son as Savior.”
- “The Son” with article ‘the’ = object of send.
- “Savior” without article = the Son’s identity.



- Jesus is greater than all prophets.
- No other religion has a Savior.

The Son of God

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

- “Whoever” = No priest or religion required!
- “Confesses” = Believes and says so, especially by being baptized.
- “Son of God” = (a) born of a virgin; (b) the promised Messiah; (c) God who became a human being; (d) Trinitarian doctrine.
- “Abides” = remains connected, forever.

The Trinity

- Apostolic: Jesus is our great God & Savior.
- Historical: God = Father + Son + Holy Spirit.
- Latin: God wears three ‘persons’ (masks).
- Theological: But Father ≠ Son ≠ Holy Spirit.

Discuss:

1. Are any disbelievers Trinitarian?
2. Are most Catholics and Orthodox Trinitarian?
3. Are most evangelicals are Trinitarian?

What must we believe to be Christian?

- Jesus was born of a virgin?
- Jesus is the promised Messiah?
- Jesus is God who came as a human being?
- Jesus died and rose to save me?
- Jesus is a member of the Holy Trinity?
- Jesus is Lord in heaven?
- Jesus will return as King over the world?

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6. Jesus is Lord in heaven?
7. Jesus will return as King over the world?
8. Jesus _____ ?

God is love

¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

- “Know and believe” = experience & trust.
- “The God is love” ≠ ‘Love is God’.
- “In the love” = that love = God’s love for us.
- ➔ Let God help you feel his love for you!

God is love — how?

1. He created us to know and enjoy him.
2. He provides for all our needs.
3. He gave to us laws that make life better.
4. He came as Jesus to visit us and die for us.
5. He comes to live with us by his Holy Spirit.
6. He forgives us everything that we confess.
7. He answers most of our prayers.
8. He is preparing a place for us in heaven.
9. He promises us everlasting life.

Confidence

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.

- “The love” = that love that God has for us.
- “Is ...” Gk = ‘has been perfected’.
- “May have” Purpose? Or result?
- “Confidence” = boldness, fearlessness.
- “As he is” = loyal to God, loving others.

Day of Judgement

- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Who?
- Whom?
- Why?
- Whither?

No fear

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.

- “Fear” = afraid of death and hell.
- “Perfect” = verse 17: ‘has been perfected’.
- “Fears” = present tense: ‘is still fearful’.
- “Perfected” = ‘reached maturity’.

He first loved us

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 love God whom he has not seen.

1. “God first loved us.” (Gave us his Spirit.)
2. Now we love God. (We have confident faith.)
3. We want to obey God. (Joy from his Spirit.)
4. So, we love Christians. (A fruit of his Spirit.)

Assignment

- Read **1 John 5:1-5** three times in different versions (www.netbible.org).
- Visit <http://1john.currah.download>
- Compile your own insights to share with others next time.