

FIRST JOHN 4:7-12

'God resides in us'

02 & 04 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

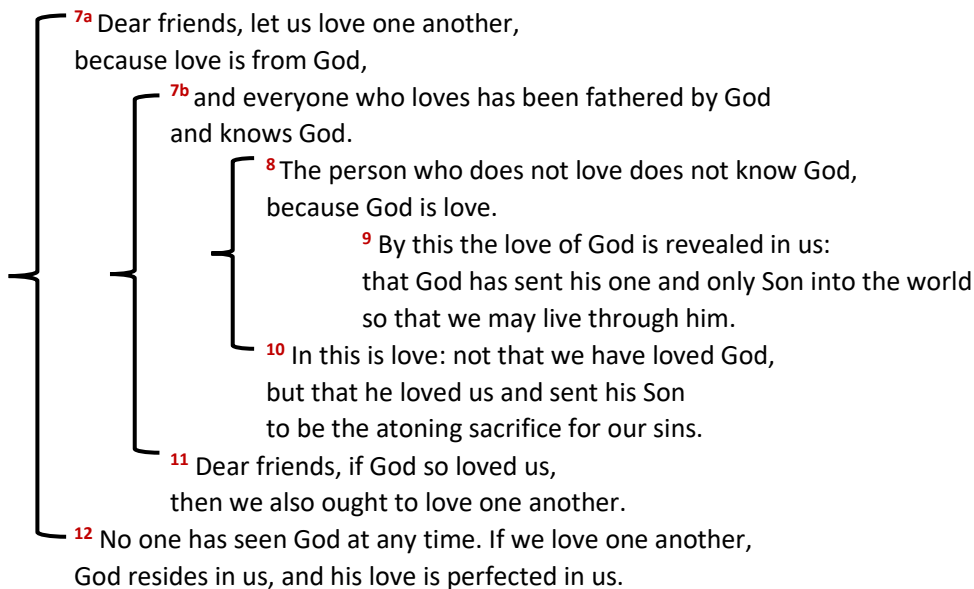
XI. We Have the Saviour 4.13-21

XII. We have the Christ 5.1-5

Part 4: Our Confidence with God 5.6-21

Chiastic structure of 1 John 4:7-12

Chiasm(us): A literary device that presents a series of ideas, and then repeats them in opposite order, found throughout the Bible (*Wikipedia*). Repeated words and synonyms reveal themes. The center verse is usually the main idea of the chiasm.



- Highlight or draw and oval around each "God" and "he".
- Highlight or draw a rectangle around each "love(d)".
- Highlight or draw a star around each "Son" and "him".
- Highlight or draw a circle around each "we" and "us".
- Highlight or underline each thing God does or did for us.
- Highlight or double underline each "not" and each "one another" and "everyone".

9 By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him.

- “Love of God” = God’s love for us, our love for him, or a godly kind of love? See the context.
- “Is revealed” = aorist: a historical event.
- “In us” = ‘among us’ or ‘in our case’, not a personal experience.
- “Us ... we” = who?
- “Only” = *monogené* (one kind), not to be confused with *monogenné* (only begotten).
- “Son” = the promised Messiah. How do we know this?
- “Sent ... live” = aorist verbs, the one historical, the other a general truth.

7a Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, ...

- “Dear friends” = ‘beloved’. By whom?
- “Let us love” = continuous present tense. What is the point?
- “One another” = Who are included?
- “Love from God?” = What does real love do?

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

- “No one has seen” = ‘No one ever saw’. Past perfect verb.
- 1st “God” = emphatic position. No ‘the’ = the divine nature. 2nd “God” = ‘the/that God’.
- “If” = 2nd class condition. May or may not be fulfilled.
- “We love ... resides” = present continuous.
- “Perfected” = past perfect passive.

7b and everyone who loves {God} has been fathered by God and knows God.

- {God} = inserted in one 5th century manuscript.
- “Who loves” = continuous present tense. Whom?
- “Has been fathered” = ‘past perfect’ event with lasting effect.

11 Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one another.

- “If” = 1st class condition. “Since...”
- “Also” = Who else?
- “Beloved ... us ... one another” = Who? Whom?

8 {The person who does not love does not know God,} because God is love.

- { ... } omitted in one 4th century manuscript, later corrected.
- “Not know” = aorist tense: a general truth.
- Literally, “the God is love” cannot be translated “love is God.”

10 In this is {God’s} love: not that we {have} loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- {God’s} = one 5th century manuscript and some later ones.
- “We ... he” = emphatic pronouns.
- “We have loved” = past perfect tense.
- {Have} = most manuscripts. “We loved” in two 5th cent. mss and later ones. “he loved” in one 5th cent. ms.
- “Loved ... sent” = aorist verbs. Meaning what?
- “Atoning sacrifice” = *hisasmos*: propitiation, satisfaction: God’s holiness is satisfied with/by Jesus.
- What other terms for Jesus’ sacrifice have we studied in previous lessons?
- “In us” = ‘among us’ or ‘in our case’, not a personal experience.