

“Let us teach the New Testament!”

First Epistle of John

Lesson 10, 1 John 4:7-13

1john.currah.download September 2019

Introduction

In this tenth of 15 lessons on the New Testament Book of 1 John, we shall deal with these ten topics:

1. 1 John 4:7-13 in the *English Standard Version* (2016)
2. 1 John 4:7-13 SBL *Greek NT* (2010) with English interlinear
3. Greek textual variants in 1 John 4:7-13
4. Parallels between 1 John 4:7-13 and the Gospel of John
5. Analytical outline of 1 John 4:7-13
6. Important vocabulary and historical meanings
7. Greek grammar: Object complement (double accusative)
8. Teachable points from 1 John 4:7-13
9. An historical Christian doctrine: The Christ, the Messiah
10. Practical applications of 1 John 4:7-13 for Christians

1. The *English Standard Version* (2016) text of 1 John 4:7-13

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

2. Interlinear Greek-English Text of 1 John 4:7-13

⁷ Beloved, let-us-love one-another, for the love from the God is,
⁷ Ἀγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους, ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστίν,
and every the loving from the God has-been-born and knows the God.
καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν.
⁸ The not loving not knew the God, that the God love is.
⁸ ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν, ὅτι ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν.
⁹ In this was-manifested the love of-the-God among us, that the Son his
⁹ ἐν τούτῳ ἐφανερώθη ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ἡμῖν, ὅτι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ
The only-kind he-sent the God into the world, that we-might-live through him.
τὸν μονογενῆ ἀπέσταλκεν ὁ θεὸς εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἵνα ζήσωμεν δι' αὐτοῦ.
¹⁰ In this is the love, not that we have-loved the God,
¹⁰ ἐν τούτῳ ἐστίν ἡ ἀγάπη, οὐχ ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεόν,
but that he loved us and sent the Son his propitiation
ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς καὶ ἀπέστειλεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἰλασμόν
for the sins our. ¹¹ Beloved, since thusly the God loved us,
περὶ τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν. ¹¹ ἀγαπητοί, εἰ οὕτως ὁ θεὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς,
also we ought one-another to love. ¹² God no-one ever has-seen;
καὶ ἡμεῖς ὀφείλομεν ἀλλήλους ἀγαπᾶν. ¹² θεὸν οὐδεὶς πώποτε τεθέαται·
if we-love one-another, the God in us abides and the love his in us
ἐὰν ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους, ὁ θεὸς ἐν ἡμῖν μένει καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη αὐτοῦ ἐν ἡμῖν
having-been-perfected is. ¹³ In this we-know that in him we-abide
τετελειωμένη ἐστίν. ¹³ Ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ μένομεν
and he in us, that from the Spirit his he-has-given-to-us.
καὶ αὐτὸς ἐν ἡμῖν, ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος αὐτοῦ δέδωκεν ἡμῖν.

3. Manuscript Variants in 1 John 4:7-13

- 4:7** One 5th century manuscript inserts “God” after “whoever loves.”
One 4th century manuscript omits “Anyone who does not love does not know God.”
- 4:10** From the 4th century, two manuscripts read “In this is the love of God” instead of “In this is love.”
From the 5th century, some manuscripts read, “we loved God” or “we were loving God” instead of “we have loved God.”
One 5th century manuscript reads, “that One loved us” instead of “He loved us.”
One 4th century manuscript reads, “has sent” instead of “sent.”

First Epistle of John, Lesson 10, 1 John 4:7-13

4:13 From the 5th century, some manuscripts read, “he gave us” instead of “he has given us.”

Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete list of textual variants.

4. Parallels between 1 John 4:7-13 and the Gospel of John

1 John	Gospel of John
In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him 4:9	God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life 3.16
No one has seen God at any time 4.12	No one has ever seen God 1.18
We abide in him and he in us 4.13	In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you 14.20

5. Analytical outline for preachers, teachers and groups leaders.

Part 3: **Our Christian** Faith 3.19 – 5.5

X. **We Have God’s Love** 4.7-13

A. Mutual love 4.7-8

1. Those who love one another 4.7
 - a. Belong to God
 - b. Are born of God and know him
2. Those who do not love 4.8
 - A. Do not know God
 - B. God is love

B. God’s love 4.9-10

1. Is manifest 4.9
 - a. God sent his only Son
 - b. We live by him
2. He first loved us 4.10
 - a. It was not we who loved him
 - b. It is he who loved us
 - (1) By sending his Son
 - (2) By his sacrifice for us

C. Love’s logic 4.11-13

1. We must love one another 4.11
2. God perfects his love in us 4.12
3. We have God’s Spirit 4.13

6. Important terms and their historical meanings in 1 John 4:7-13

Definitions condensed from Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich and Danker, *Greek Lexicon* (2001).

only μονογενής *monogenés*

2 being the only one of its kind or class, *unique* (in kind) of something that is the only example of its category ... [only Son] is used only of Jesus. The renderings *only, unique* may be quite adequate for all its occurrences ... 1J 4:9.

propitiation ἱλασμός *hilasmos*

1 appeasement necessitated by sin, *expiation*... Of Jesus as the [propitiation for our sins] 1J 2:2; 4:10. But meaning 2 has been popular.

2 instrument for appeasing, *sacrifice to atone, sin-offering*.

Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete list of definitions.

7. Greek grammar of 1 John 4:7-13. Subject and predicate nominatives

Word order does not determine Subject or Predicate in Greek. Greek grammarians explain that subject nouns have no definite article, and definite predicate nouns preceding the verb have no article.

To distinguish subject from predicate nominatives, observe: (a) if one nominative is a pronoun, then it is the subject; (b) if one nominative is a proper noun (name), then it is the subject; and (c) if a nominative following a verb has a definite article, then it is the subject.

In 1 John predicate nouns to teach theological truth:

2:22 "Jesus ... is the Christ."

4:8 "God is love" (but love is not God).

4:15 5:5 "Jesus is the Son of God."

5:1 "Jesus is the Christ."

Download from 1john.currah.download a more complete statement with examples.

8. Teachable points from 1 John 4:7-13

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you teachable points from the passage. For example:

God's love

1. God is love 4.8
2. Gives new birth 4.7
3. He sent his only Son 4.9, 10
4. We live by him 4.9
5. He loved us 4.10, 11
6. He sent his son a propitiation for our sins 4.10
7. He has given to us of his Spirit 4.13

The Holy Trinity

1. God has loved us 4.7, 9, 11
2. The Son became our propitiation 4.10
3. He has given us of his Spirit 4.13

We love one another 4.7, 11

1. Because we are born again 4.7
2. Because we know God 4.8
3. Because God has manifested his love 4.8
4. We must love one another 4.11
5. So that God dwell with us 4.13
6. So his love become perfect in us 4.13
7. So he dwell in us 4.13

Instead of reading or talking about all of these points, have learners form tiny groups. Have each group read a few verses of 1 John 4:7-13, looking for the topic. It is not necessary to find or to report all of the items. After a few minutes, ask someone in each tiny group to tell two or three items that the group members found. Thank all for their cooperation.

9. An historical Christian doctrine: God's only Son.

God's only Son. In past ages, God called created beings his "sons" or his children. He called angels his sons (Job 1:6), he called the wicked his sons (Genesis 6:1), and he called the Israelites his sons (Deuteronomy 41:1). The New Testament calls Christians the "sons of God" (Galatians 3:26).

Long ago, God said that a special king would come some day, whom he called his son (Psalm 2:7). The prophet Daniel foresaw him coming "with the clouds of heaven," calling him a "son of man" (7:13). The angel Gabriel called Jesus "the Son of the Most High" and "the Son of God" (Luke 1:32, 35).

First Epistle of John, Lesson 10, 1 John 4:7-13

Thus, Jesus is the only Son of God, because he is unique, for there is none other like him. He has been the spiritual Son of God forever, he was born the human Son of God, and God has called him “My beloved Son” (Matt. 3:17; 17:5). In some languages, they call Jesus the “unique Son of God.”

10. Practical application of 1 John 4:7-13 for Christians

After someone or several have read or recited 1 John 4:7-13 in small gatherings of learners, pose queries such as these:

- What have you learnt from this passage about God?
- What have you learnt from this passage about Jesus?
- What have you learnt from this passage about Christian love?

Whilst preaching, teaching or leading, recommend ways in which to apply the passage or put it into practice. For example:

- Review seven basic commandments of Jesus, including his New Commandment.
- Recommend or discuss specific ways in which Christians show practical love to their spouse, to members of their household, to their extended family, to their faith community, to their social community, to the needy, to non-Christians and to enemies.
- Envision and plan together to start or to reproduce small groups or house churches, in which Christians may have many opportunities to show love one to another in many ways.
- Invite everyone to think about more ways in which to show love one for another, then pray that God himself will visit each one in a fresh way.

Conclusion

- Download documents for this lesson at 1john.currah.download.
- Read five times 1 John 4:14-21 before you view the next video lesson.
- Please, leave comments or queries, or write to me at the download site. I shall try to reply to you by email or in a video.