

### *Authenticity*

- Authentic = Genuine. What it claims to be.
- When does authenticity matter?
- How do you know if something is authentic?
- How do you know if someone is an authentic Christian?
- How do we know if we are authentic Christians?

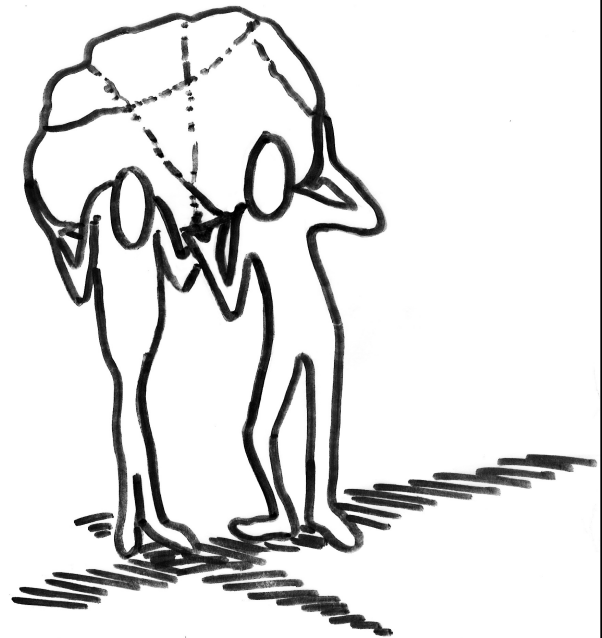
## The Love of God Completed

1 John 4:13-21

**Brown/English: Page 1231**

**White/Spanish: Page 1559**

**Red/Chinese: Page 1981**



## *1 John*

- A letter from the Apostle John (Jesus' closest friend)
  - Wrote to people who were affected by false teaching
  - John emphasized the reality of the Son of God becoming a human being, and the implications for those who trust Him
- When there is false teaching, love is often absent

## *1 John 4:13-21*

We know we live in God and God in us when...

- 13-16a: • We believe and depend upon Jesus as God's Son and our Savior
- 16b-21: • We love other people as Jesus loved us
- Continually gives of self to others and seeks their benefit even when they don't deserve it

### ***“Reciprocal Indwelling”***

- A shocking idea of close fellowship with God
  - “If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.”  
*1 John 2:24*
  - “The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them.”  
*1 John 3:24*
  - “We live in him and he is us”  
*1 John 4:13*
  - “God lives in them and they in God”  
*1 John 4:15*
  - “lives in God and God in them”  
*1 John 4:16*

### ***Reciprocal indwelling comes from God’s Spirit being in us***

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.”

*John 3:3,5*

### *The Big Idea*

Our confidence that we live in God is  
that by His Spirit we believe and trust  
that Jesus is God, our Savior in the flesh,  
and that by His Spirit we love others with God's love

### *The Fun (and challenge) of Language*

- What does “of” mean? (genitive case → close association)

Descriptive	Put on the <b>armor of light</b>	<i>Romans 13:12</i>
Possessive	<b>People of God</b>	<i>Hebrews 11:25</i>
Partitive	<b>Poor of the Lord's people</b>	<i>Romans 15:26</i>
Subjective	Who shall separate us from the <b>love of Christ?</b> [Christ loves us]	<i>Romans 8:35</i>
Objective	...fall into the <b>condemnation of the devil</b> [the devil is condemned]	<i>1 Timothy 3:6</i>

### *The Fun (and challenge) of Language*

- What is the “love of God”?
  - **Subjective:** God’s love for people
  - **Objective:** People’s love for God
- “Love of God Completed”
  - **God’s love for people**  
is completed when  
**people love God and people**

### *The Big Idea*

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that by His Spirit we believe and trust  
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How do people observe God?

How will they know the authenticity of the church?

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. *1 John 4:12*

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” *John 13:13*

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. *1 John 4:9*

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. *1 John 4:17*

How do people observe God?

How will they know the authenticity of the church?

When they see God’s people love each other.

- Knowledge
- Conviction --> DEEPLY HELD BELIEF
- Application --> PUT INTO ACTION

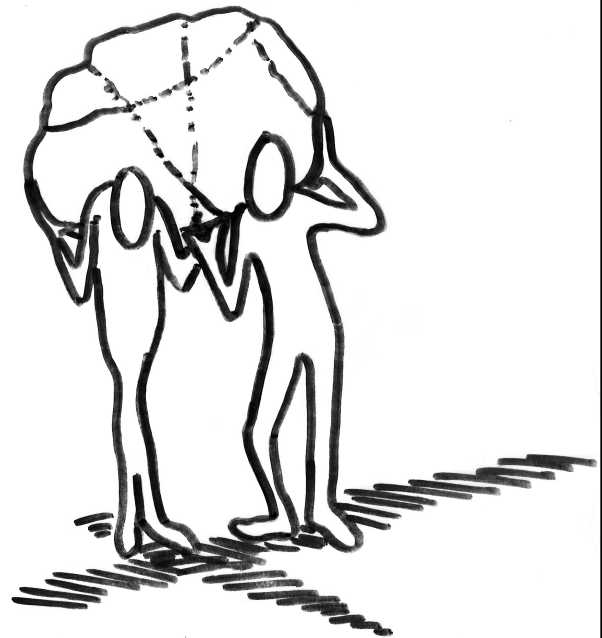
GOD LOVES ME  
DAILY AND FOREVER  
IN JESUS CHRIST

We love  
because he first loved us.

*1 John 4:19*

Now that you know these things,  
you will be blessed  
if you do them.

*John 13:17*



### *Implications*

- Believe and trust that Jesus is God, our Savior in the flesh
  - There are good reasons to believe, but in the end, belief is a moral choice
  - Trust is far more than intellectual knowledge
    - It is to **rely on Jesus as God** for our being

### *Implications*

- Believe and trust that Jesus is God, our Savior in the flesh
- Love others with God's love
  - In this church
    - “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”



### *Implications*

- Believe and trust that Jesus is God, our Savior in the flesh
- Love others with God's love
  - In this church
  - In other churches, “near and far”, past and present
    - “It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

### *Implications*

- Believe and trust that Jesus is God, our Savior in the flesh
- Love others with God's love
  - In this church
  - In other churches, “near and far”
  - People not in churches
    - “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

### *Passive and Active*

- This belief/trust and love must come from God: **Passive**
  - “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”  
*1 John 4:10*
  - “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”  
*Galatians 2:20*

### *Passive and Active*

- This belief/trust and love must come from God: **Passive**
- We are commanded to believe and to love: **Active**
  - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”  
*John 14:1*
  - “And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”  
*1 John 4:21*

### *The Big Idea*

Our confidence that we live in God is  
that by His Spirit we believe and trust  
that Jesus is God, our Savior in the flesh,  
and that by His Spirit we love others with God's love

**NOT: PERFECTION**

**RATHER: ONGOING CONFESSION AND TURNING AGAIN TO OBEY  
IN DEPENDENCE UPON GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH THE SPIRIT**