ABIDING IN LOVE

I John 4:16(NASB) We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved

John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7&20

I John 4:9&10 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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

I John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John was not loved in a way the other disciples were not, he had simply come to know and believe the love Jesus had for him.

God is Love

Isaiah 6:2 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the who earth is full of his glory.”

Revelation 4:8b Day and night they never stop saying: “ ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

I John 4:7&8 Dear friends. Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

John 15:9-11(NASB) “Just as the Father has love Me, I have also loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept the Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

I John 1:3&4 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

I John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is not darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

I John 1:8-10 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Perfecting Our Love

I John 4:17(NASB) By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Zephaniah 3:17(ESV) The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with singing.

NIV “he will take great delight in you”

NCV “you will rest in his love”

KJV “he will rest in his love”

As we respond to His love and live in fellowship with Him, we begin to lose our fear of what will happen when we are judged, because we know He loves us.

Philips paraphrases “because as He is, so also are we in this world” this way, “for we realize that our life in this world is actually his life lived in us.”

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Perfect Love Casts out Fear

I John 4:18(NASB) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:31-34a What, then, shall we say in response to these things. If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns?

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

Satan is called the “accuser of our brethren” in Revelation 12:9&10.

Why We Love

I John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

The way to grow in our love for God is not to be determined to love God more, but to be overwhelmed by His love for us.

Does that Mean God Will Not Discipline Us When We Sin?

Hebrews 12:5&6 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Preparing for the Lord’s Table

Jesus dying on the cross to pay for our sins is the absolute proof of God’s love.

Abiding in the awareness of God’s love by living in fellowship with Him by walking in the light and being honest about it when we sin is how our love for Him grows.

I Corinthians 11:28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.