**Day 23 – Love As Christ Loved: Pt. 2**

4:17-21

We must consider a couple more truths from verse 12-13 that we did not cover last time.

1. In verse 12, “perfected” means “matured”. If we continually love others, it proves what?

Note: In verse 13, when we know in our hearts, that we abide in Him, and He in us, we know that because of the witness of the 3rd person of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit!

2. Read John 14:23. We abide in this love, and we experience what?

Note: God’s love is proclaimed in the Word and proved at the cross. But here in chapter 4, John explains to us that God’s love is “perfected” in the believer, as He reveals His love through us!

Read verse 17-18.

3. Love has been perfected where?

4. This perfect love causes us to what?

Note: Perfected here means perfectly perfect or completely complete. As much as we can know the completeness of God’s love now, we will know it all the ore “in the day of judgment”.

5. The only way to have “boldness” in the “day of judgment” is to receive and walk in what today?

6. According to verse 5, there is no fear in what? What is the contrast in this verse?

7. If we fear, what do we know (v5)?

Note: If our relationship with God is marked by this tormenting fear, it shows we have not been made complete and mature in His love.

8. Read verse 19. When did God first love us and why do we love Him?

Note: In this verse it is understood He also loves us now. This verse should stir our hearts to want to love Him more. This verse should reflect every believer’s heart!

9. If we love God, we must what?

10. If we say we love God, but do not love our brother or sister in Christ, we are a what?

**Application:** Are you having trouble loving a brother or sister in Christ right now? They have really hurt you or a loved one. You can’t let go of bitterness or resentment to forgive. Remember the saying from Bible teacher Kay Arthur: “Everything that comes into your life is filtered through His fingers of love!” Everything!

Here’s the truth. True forgiveness of another will allow you to love that person. Remember, Jesus didn’t forgive us and then refuse to love you. And God loved you before you loved Him.

Write out a prayer to God… share you heart with Him. Tell Him what you KNOW you need to do… ask Him to help you!