

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

Love to Christ smoothes the Path of Duty, and Wins!

As the people of Israel stood on the threshold of the Promised Land, God, through the leadership of Moses, instructed the people in their responsibility for assuring themselves of the Lord's continued blessing. They were deeply aware of the consequences of removing themselves from His blessing. They had witnessed an entire generation of men die in the wilderness within the previous forty years because of faithlessness and disobedience. Now they were back to the doorstep of blessing and anxious to trust in the living God.

Moses began instruction by telling the people where a home blessed of God starts: "Here, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV). Israel's call to love God was focused upon the revelation of Himself as their only, true deliverer and provider. He delivered them from Egyptian bondage, He met all their physical needs for survival, and He provided a means for them to have their sins covered through sacrifice. To love God with the whole personality was a natural response, given His personal commitment to them. Love for the Lord was in Moses day, and still is today, where God's blessings begin.

The apostle John tells us that we love God, because He first loved us and gave himself for us (see I John 4). Calvary was not just a model of love, but a point of substitution: Christ's suffering for man's sin, Christ's death for man's damnation. It is Calvary truth, more than any other truth that stirs hearts to the love for God that so positively affects the home.

Charles Spurgeon spoke of such love: "Love to Christ smoothes the path of duty, and wings the feet to travel it: it makes the life of sincere devotion. Love has a clear eye; but it can see only one thing - it is blind to every interest but that of its Lord; love sees things in the light of his glory, and weighs actions on the scales of his honour; love counts royalty but drudgery if it cannot reign for Christ, but it delights in servitude as much as in honour, if it can thereby advance the Master's kingdom; love's end sweetens all its means; love's object lightens all it's toil."

There is great blessing to be found in God for every family on earth, and many stand at the threshold. How many will turn back, missing Calvary truth and consequently be in want of love for God?

What is my response:
