

Series: Fellowship Divine

Title: The Second Test of Fellowship: Brotherly Love

Text: (1 Jn 4:7-21)

Love ~ 19 times in Chapter 4

A. The Nature of Love. (vs 7-11)

1.) The Great Instruction of love. (vs 7)

- a.) The Nature of God is Love
- b.) The World robs love of its beauty.
 - (1) Natural love is more than physical attraction.
 - (2.) Divine love given: (II Pet 1:4)
 - (a) There are various stages of love.
 - (b) One must grow in love.

2.) The Great Explanation of love. (vs 8)

- a.) The Origin of love: Greek word agape.
- b.) The Greek word eros, passion is not used in NT
- c.) Love in action: clear evidence of our spiritual birth.
- d.) Without this love there is no Christian maturity.

3.) The Great Manifestation of love. (vs 9)

- a.) As a gift: (Rom 5:8)
 - (1) God's love must precede any love by man.
 - (2) God's love gave us His Son: (Rom 8:32)
- b.) For a purpose: Life through Him. vs 9
 - (1) No other way: (Ch 5:12)
 - (2) Been with Jesus: (Acts 4:13)
 - (3) Death to sin before life can exist.

4.) The Great Manifestation of Love: (vs 10)

- a.) In favor with God.
- b.) Explain *Propitiation* ~ Sins covered by Christ blood
- c.) At Calvary the pure love of God reach needy man.

5.) The Great Obligation of Love. (vs 11)

- a.) “Ought”
 - (1) Not in the thought of fulfilling a debt.
 - (2) Expresses a special, personal obligation.
- b.) Responding in love as love was given: (Jn 15:12)

B. The Union Of love. (vs 12-16)

1.) The Great Presentation of Love: (vs 12)

- a.) God perfecting His love, when He dwells in us.

2.) The Great Confirmation of Love: (vs 13)

- a.) Dwelling is mutual. *“we dwell in him”*
- b.) Possible to know this.
 - (1) (Rom 8:16) *“the Spirit itself beareth witness”*
 - (2) The light of the Word of God shows us. (5:13)
- c.) God Loving others through us: (Rom 5:5)

3.) The Great Declaration of Love: (vs 14-15)

- a.) Acceptance of Christ as Lord: (Rom 10:10)
- b.) Reliance upon Christ as Savior.

4.) The Great Affirmation of Love: (vs 16)

- 1.) Faith opens the door for love to flow in.
- 2.) Love grows, knowledge increases, faith strengthens
- 3.) Love is the motivating force in faith: (Gal 5:6)

C. Perfection of Love. (vs 17-18)

1.) The Great Revelation of Love: (vs 17)

- a.) To give boldness: (Col 3:23-24)
- b.) Love makes the believer like Jesus.
- c.) God's purpose for man's holiness attained in love

2.) The Great Realization of Love: (vs 18)

- a.) Fear of the former life without Christ.

- b.) Punishment's fear covered by the blood (Heb 13:12)
- c.) Fear caused by the flesh: (Gal 5:17)
 - (1) Put off the Old Man:(Eph 4:22-24)(Gal 4:29-31)
 - (2) Live by faith. (Phil 3:7-9)
- d.) Fear conquered by God's Love. (Rom 8:31-39* 37)

D. The Great Reaction of Love. (vs 19)

The Source of our love is God's Love to us.

E. The Great Contradiction of love: (vs 20a)

F. The Great Conclusion of Love: (Vs 21)

G. The Great Tests of love.

- 1.) How can I get along with that individual?
- 2.) How can I show my love for that individual?
- 3.) Seek to love the unlovable, this is the acid test of our love for God.