

Logic of Love

1 John 4:11-19



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively 1 John 4:11-19 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. (12) **No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.** (13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. (14) **And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world.** (15) **Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.** (16) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (17) **Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.** (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (19) **We love him, because he first loved us.**

There Is A Logic To Love

There is a logic to love. Let me see if I can illustrate this statement.

Illustrate The other day I was at a gas station filling up my tank when I noticed the oddest advertisement I've ever seen. On top of the pump was a picture of a woman hugging a gas pump, and beneath it were the words "Feel the Love". Feel the love? You've got to be kidding! Every time I head to the pumps I feel a lot of things – in particular I feel poorer – but I certainly don't "feel the love".

The natural or *unspiritual* person does not understand the things of God (**1 Corinthians 2:14**). The Bible tells us several truths concerning God insofar as love is concerned. The Bible tells us that “**God is love**” (**1 John 4:8**), that is, He alone is the Source of true Love. We are told that “**God is Spirit**” (**John 4:24**), whereas man is fleshly. God is by nature holy and sinless, whereas we are by nature sinners (**Isaiah 6:3 ff**). If God is the Source of Love but God is holy and separate from us sinners, then logic dictates that God *enable* us to love before we can ever truly love. True love, as given through the Heavenly Father, must be imparted to us. Otherwise we find ourselves defining love as a woman hugging a gas pump. That's not love, it's an atrocity!

This is why our focal text today starts out with this statement:

FOCAL 1 John 4:11 Beloved, **if God so loved us, we ought¹ also to love one another.**

Illustrate If God so loved us – and He did love us. He loved us so much that **He gave us His only Begotten Son. Whosoever believeth in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)**. If God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another**. The word “**ought**”

¹ Present Active Indicative of G3784, *ὀφείλω, ὀφείλω, opheilō, opheileō, of-i'-lo, of-i-leh'-o*, Including its prolonged form (second form) used in certain tenses. Probably from the base of G3786 (through the idea of *accruing*); to *owe* (pecuniarily); figuratively to *be under obligation* (*ought, must, should*); morally to *fail* in duty: - *behave, be bound, (be) debt (-or), (be) due (-ty), be guilty (indebted), (must) need (-s), ought, owe, should*. See also G3785.

is a Greek word that literally means “**we keep on being under obligation to do this**”. The Christian is in a state of *perpetual obligation to love his or her brother in Christ*. We are a family, a *Body of Christ*. The little finger cannot begin to think itself superior to the body, cleaner than the body, more set apart from the body. That little finger has no life if it ceases to be part of the Body. Love is necessary for the preservation of the Body, that each member love the other. We do this

1 Corinthians 12:25-26 **That there should be no schism in the body; but [that] the members should have the same care one for another. (26) And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

Let the little finger wash itself and tie a red ribbon tightly around its base so as to set itself apart from the Body. In time the lifeblood that should have flowed to that member will be cut off. If constriction continues the finger will die. So it is with all who will not love in Christ's Church.

God commanded ancient Israel:

Leviticus 19:16-18 **Thou shalt not go up and down [as] a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I [am] the LORD. (17) Thou shalt not hate thy**

brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. (18) Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I [am] the LORD.

And commands His Church today through its Head, our Lord Jesus Christ:

Matthew 22:37-40 ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Perpetual love is commanded to every one of God's people. Not hatred, but love. Not bitterness, but love. Not arrogance, or a judgmental attitude, but love. It is commanded – and so very necessary to the survival of the Church.

**Perpetual Love Is Proof That You Have
Been To The Source of Love**

FOCAL 1 John 4:12-13 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us,

and his love is perfected in us. (13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

We read **no man hath seen God at any time**. The words **hath seen**² literally mean in the original text “**to look closely at, to perceive, to visit with so as to know intimately**”. We know that, according to the Scripture, man has seen or glanced at God in the past. Moses saw the back of God (**Exodus 33:22**). **The prophet Isaiah** looked into Heaven (**Isaiah 6:1**) and saw the Lord high and lifted up, on His Throne. **John the Revelator** saw God in his visions of Heaven (**see Revelation 20**). Men have *seen* God in the sense that they glanced at Him. But they have never *gotten to know God*. They have *tasted* of God's presence, but never have they come to know Him in His Nature. The Old Testament Saint saw God bereft of Christ and, to that person, God was frightening. In the New Testament we who are saved have not only seen God at the point of salvation, but God has also come to *indwell all who believe in Him*.

FOCAL 1 John 4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

What is my proof that I have had an encounter unto salvation with God? **That I love my fellow brothers and sisters.** Jesus Christ was in God and God was in

2 Perfect Middle Indicative of G₂₃₀₀, **θεάομαι**, *theaomai*, *theah'-om-ahee*, A prolonged form of a primary verb; to *look* closely at, that is, (by implication) to *perceive* (literally or figuratively); by extension to *visit*: - behold, look (upon), see. Compare G₃₇₀₀.

Him, and He loved perpetually. Look at the logic of love:

IF we love one another, GOD DWELLETH IN US.

Am I saved? Then I will love perpetually. I will love perpetually not just because I am commanded to do so – and I am commanded to do so – but I will love perpetually because **God Who is Love lives inside of me.**

Illustrate When I take a cup, an empty cup, that cup has *potential* but nothing else. But if I put *coffee* in it then the cup becomes a *coffee cup*. If I put *soup* in the cup, then it becomes a *cup of soup*. The cup is only identified when its contents are known. Dirty water in the cup is of no value. Something productive, good, nourishing, or needed give the cup value. **If we love one another** – if love is in us because God is in us – then **God dwelleth in us**. The text goes on to read:

FOCAL 1 John 4:12 **No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected³ in us.**

Illustrate God's love is **completed** in us who are His by faith. This is what God willed from the beginning, even from the Garden of Eden. God created all that you see because *love must express Himself*. God put man in the midst of a perfect environment and, though man rejected God, *love continued to express Himself*. When Christ came from Heaven, leaving its splendor, and came to this earth to live as a perfect Man and die for imperfect man

3 Perfect Passive Participle of G5048, τελειόω, teleiōō, tel-i-o'-o, From G5046; to *complete*, that is, (literally) *accomplish*, or (figuratively) *consummate* (in character): - consecrate, finish, fulfil, (make) perfect.

on Calvary, this was God's Masterpiece of Love.

Rembrandt or Picasso expressed their souls by brushing paints on canvas. These masterpieces hang on museum walls, enjoyed, but of little value other than in passing. God's Masterpiece was not colorful paint but *His own precious Blood given for our redemption*. Perfect Love said “There is no barrier that I will not cross, no suffering I will not endure, no agony of soul that I will not tolerate *for you!*” John wrote in another place:

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because he laid down his life for us; and we ought⁴ to lay down [our] lives for the brethren.

God completed His love in us. He gave Himself on the Cross. Since God gave Himself for us we are under *perpetual obligation to lay our lives down for one another*. This, I admit, is not something that I can do within myself – but it can be done *through God the Spirit Who indwells me*. Our text tells us that:

FOCAL 1 John 4:13 **Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.**

God the Son gave Himself for us on Calvary, and **God the Holy Spirit** gave Himself to us at the point of salvation. What perfect love! What a holy communion!

4 See note 1. This is again the Present Active Indicative of ὀφείλω, ὀφειλέω, ophēilō, ophēleō, of-i'-lo, of-i-leh'-o – *we keep on being under obligation to do*

What a joyous thing to be in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Perpetual Love Requires That We Tell Others Of His Love

It is the Will of God that love be produced in every person who will believe on Him. It is the Will of God that many many people come to Christ and be saved. The Apostle says:

FOCAL 1 John 4:14 And **we have seen and do testify⁵ that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world.**

Jesus did not come and die a terrible death on the Cross so that just a few can be saved. He was sent **to be the Savior of the world**. All who will believe in Him will be saved. We are told in Hebrews:

Hebrews 2:9-10 But we see **Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that **he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (10) For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through**

⁵ Present Active Indicative of G3140, μαρτυρέω, martureō, *mar-too-reh'-o*, From G3144; to *be a witness*, that is, *testify* (literally or figuratively): - charge, give [evidence], bear record, have (obtain, of) good (honest) report, be well reported of, testify, give (have) testimony, (be, bear, give, obtain) witness.

sufferings.

Jesus tasted death for every man. He died to redeem *whosoever will believe in Him*. God's love is completed in us who believe, but to those who believe not there is yet a soul to be saved. Perpetual love *demands* that we tell others about the love of Christ and the salvation that is available through Him.

The word **testify** in our focal text is the Greek μαρτυρέω, which means **keep on being martyred or keep on testifying**. Perpetual love means that we keep on telling others about Jesus and that He is the **Way, the Truth, and the Life – and that no man comes unto the Father but by Him (John 14:6)**. The plaintive statement that I often hear from believers is “But preacher, they just won't listen to me! They get offended. They get mad at me.” Yeah, no kidding. They don't listen to me either. They get mad at me while I'm preaching, and have often walked out in a huff taking the side door to avoid me. Beloved, we may not be heard, but **we must keep on presenting Christ and His Scripture to this lost and dying world**. Love demands that we keep on doing what we are supposed to do. Jesus kept on, though He knew that at the end of His ministry the crowds would turn on Him crying out “Crucify Him!”. Jesus kept on, though He knew that even His disciples would turn away. Jesus kept on because *love perseveres, even unto martyrdom*. The early Church was terribly persecuted, terribly afflicted, and yet *love drove them onward*. The Apostles said:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For Christ's love

compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: if One died for all, then all died. (15) And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised.^{HCSB}

He died for me because I was dead. I am alive because of Him. Now I must live for Him because He lives in me.

FOCAL 1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

God loved us and saved us, but we only **dwell in Him when we dwell in love. If I dwell in love, I must tell others about my Jesus.** God loved you and I when we were (and still are) unlovable. We must love others when they are unlovable. Nothing is, dear friends, more unlovable than an unsaved son of Adam. Think back on the days when you were unsaved. Think back on how you sneered at the preacher and mocked the “holy rollers” who tried to lead you to Jesus. Then one day your heart was opened to see Him high and lifted up. You repented, calling upon the Name of the Lord, and were saved. It was not of merit, not of worth. But

FOCAL 1 John 4:19 **We love him, because he**

first loved us.

Let's talk about this verse as we conclude our study.

The Knowledge of God's Love Is The Well Every Believer Drinks From

Look at our last verse again:

FOCAL 1 John 4:19 **We love him, because he first loved us.**

This isn't *quite* the right translation, as the pronoun **him** is nowhere in the original manuscripts. The **Holman Christian Standard, New American Standard, and New International Version** all render this translation:

1 John 4:19 **We love because He first loved us.**

We love – this is what the Christian does – **because He first loved us.** Certainly we love Him, but we also love others. He loved us, He indwells us, and is joint-heirs with us. His love is a mighty river to each one who believes.

The Christian who grows cold in his or her love for God or for others needs to be reminded that **“God first loved me”**. This is the well that we all who believe must drink at. If a child grows up and begins to love the world more than he loves the parent, it is not *anger* that will draw the child back. The parent who cuts off the child from his

inheritance will add to the belligerence in that son. Yet one thing will draw the child, and that is love. Not anger, not hatred, but love. Let the parent with tears and pleading call the child home, let the parent cry out in prayer through the night that the child return, and in time that child will come back if he is a son. The son of God is continually drawn back to the Father through the fact that **we love, because He first loved us**. He loved us when we were unlovable. He loves us still.

Does God feel farther from you now than He did on the day of your salvation? Look to the Scripture. See His agony in the Garden, and see His mighty love on Calvary's Tree. **He cares for thee**. Look to the Scripture, then spend time in prayer. Turn off that diabolical television and take a moment to pray. Talk to Him who first loved you. Like the woman at the well, stop and draw living water once more from Him. Rest in Christ's love.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED