

FIRST JOHN 4:13-21

In the following section of John's letter, the close connection between the love of God and the love of His children is emphasized yet more. John also shares some more about the confidence we can have as a result.



¹³ This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

What does the Spirit of God within us confirm – and how is the testimony about Jesus connected to this?

What can give us confidence on the day of judgement?

Why would perfect love drive out fear?

Next, John reiterates some things he said earlier about love. Such things are generally repeated for emphasis. The Holy Spirit moves John to make sure his readers remember some basic, but very important, truths.

¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Why do we love?

Is it possible to truly love God and hate others?

Points to Ponder

Does it seem to you that John is being redundant in all this talk of love?

Does John's logic about loving someone we have not seen and hating someone we have make sense to you?

Who gave us the command to love one another?

