

### ***That You May Know — 1 John 4:13-21***

In this text John points out several marks that evidence that we abide in God. By this point in the book of 1 John it may seem that the message is getting to be a little repetitive at first glance. Love God, Love others. Abide in Christ and love others the way we have been loved by God. We get it, right? Simple as that. However, it is so much greater than being able to recite back what the text is saying. We as the followers of Jesus will be marked by whether we truly live out this message. In John 13:35, Jesus points out that by this love all people will know that we are his disciples by the way that we love one another. In our text today we once again must drill down to see if we really do love. Let's look at a few questions.

#### **Discussion questions — \*do not feel the pressure to cover them all**

1. We see in v.13 one of the evidences of whether or not we abide (live) in God and He in us is by the Spirit He has given us. Romans 8:16 points out, “<sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...” Explain this. What is John talking about here? How can this one fact totally revolutionize our daily lives and the way that we love others? How should Ephesians 4:30 impact the way we love? Ephesians 4:30 “<sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
2. We see in this text once again that God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgement. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. Fear has to do with punishment. Why does love cast out fear? How does abiding in God and His love give us confidence for the day of judgment? How does it give us strength for today and our future?
3. John points out that we love because He first loved us. Someone once said that love is not expressed by position toward God but God's position towards us. John points out that if we say we love God but hate our brother we are a liar. It's impossible to love God who we have not seen if we can't love our brother whom we have seen. Why is there a connection between loving God and loving your neighbor? Why is this such an important aspect in Christianity?
4. There is a clear explanation that this loving of neighbor is more than a suggestion but a command. How might we increase our love for others? How might realizing and reflecting on the love God has for us increase our love for God? How have you grown in your understanding of God's love for you?

5. How have you neglected to love those around you? How did you justify that neglect of love? Who is someone you know needs the love of Christ? How might you show that love specifically this week? Take time and pray for that individual.