



Lesson Ten: Perfect Love
1 John 4:13-21
Paul Goebel | November 14, 2023

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because 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 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot^[a] love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to abide in God? According to John, how do we know that we abide in Him?
2. How has God loved us? What does the love of God have to do with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
3. How does love cast out fear? How is our failure to love rooted in fear?
4. What is perfect love? How does this kind of love compare to our society's definition of love?
5. What does the statement, "he loved us first" (See 1 John 4:19), teach us about the Gospel?
6. Read 1 John 4:21, 1 John 3:11, and Matthew 22:35-40. What does loving God have to do with loving your brother? Why are these two loves so deeply connected?