# 1 John Lesson 22

1 John 4:17-21

“Love Perfected”

Introduction: It has been said by some that preaching on the subject of Love is not something that a real Baptist preacher would do. A True man of God will preach on the judgment of God, the wrath and chastisement of God. He will preach about sin. Now, any preacher who avoids those topics is not being true to Gods’ Word. But, you cannot preach on the judgment of God, etc without preaching on the love of God. The theme of the Word of God is that God is Love. The first and great commandment is that we love God and the second is like unto it, that we love one another. So, there must be a balance. We have to preach the whole counsel of God where we will deal with the fact of loving God and how we are to love one another and how we are to manifest the Love of God to those who are not interested in the things of God. We have a responsibility! The Bible says “And now abideth faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is LOVE!!”

**I. Perfect Love casts out fear.**

A. This letter is addressed to God’s children.

1. He wants us as His children to have boldness in the day of judgment.

a. Not a general judgment where God will one day and decide who goes to heaven and who goes to Hell.

b. This is settled in this life by the decision that we make in relation to Jesus Christ.

1) Reject Him and it will be settled when you die on this earth you will go to Hell

2) Receive Jesus Christ and embrace the truth of the Gospel and it is settled while you live that you will go to Heaven.

c. Believers will all stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ

1) give account to that which we have done

2) whether it be good or whether it be bad

3) It is unique to the child of God.

d. We will be judged by His Word.

B. The word “boldness” means “cheerful courage” and “the absence of dread”

1. A man that has run the race and finished well winning.

a. He will not dread what the judge has to say.

b. Rather he will anticipate the reward.

2. But those who are running contrary to the guidebook or dropping out of the race

a. They should be on their face before God.

b. There should be a fear of being judged

**II. Love must be made perfect in order for us to have boldness at the judgment seat.**

A. When we have loved Him the most, we still have known that we could love Him more.

1. There will never be a place with no need for improvement until after we receive our glorified body.

a. He is not demanding that our love has to be like our attachment to this flesh.

2. The word “perfect” does not mean “absolutely without any flaw”

a. But it has to do with wholeness

b. It has to do with completeness

B. John presents to us a Love Triangle.

1. Love originates with God. (v 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19)

a. The love that is required to make love complete (or perfect) that we may have boldness in the day of judgment

b. All men that exist have equal ability to exercise this kind of love (phileo: affection for, friendsip with, toward family)

1) You do not have to be saved to exercise this

2) Children, Parents, grandparents, friends, etc.

c. You cannot exercise the kind of love that we are commanded to without the Love of God in you already.

1) No one outside of a believer can love God

2) It is not in a person who is not saved to love God.

3) A person must first receive the Love of God.

d. We were all born empty and void of the ability to love God.

1) We can only Love God if the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts.

2) The day we humble our heart and confess our sin and trust in Jesus death, burial and resurrection

e. The triangle begins by receiving the Love of God.

2. We then in turn begin to love God. (v 19)

a. When the Love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost, at that moment, you love God.

1) When someone gets saved, they love God.

2) No one has to tell a person to love God.

b. As we get older, our parents had to teach more about what love really is.

1) It is more than just a fuzzy feeling.

2) It is obedience and submission to their authority.

c. It is like a whole new world and you are a new person.

1) The burden of sin is gone

2) The joy of going to Heaven and not hell is there.

d. It is possible for a child of God to turn from God’s Love and toward the affection of the things of the world.

1) That is why John already mentioned to “Love NOT the world neither things in world” back in chapter 2

2) Jude even mentioned for us to “keep yourselves in the Love of God”

e. If we could get this triangle perfected, we can have boldness in the day of judgment

1) If we only get this far, we do not have boldness looking to the day of judgment

2) We don’t have boldness because it is not perfected, there is a part not complete

3. We then Love the Brethren because of the love of God.

a. You cannot receive the love God, love God and not love others around you.

1) the word “hate” does not necessarily mean angry or bitter words

2) It means “to love less”

3) Jacob loved Rachel and hated Leah

4) He did not feel the same toward Leah as Rachel

b. People deserve from us the same thing we received from God when we were unlovable.

c. Believers are scripturally obligated to show all men the love of God.

C. At what point you have received the love of God, in return love God and love one another it is Love Perfected.

1. The judgment seat brings about no fear.

a. If you love God then His commandments will mean something to you.

b. If you love others then you are driven to treat then properly

2. When all angles are in place, then love is made perfect.

Conclusion: We love everything from hobbies to entertainment, but do we love others (even those unlovable) as God desires us to?