

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

We Are Loved

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 John 4:13-21

Theme: As those so wondrously loved by God, do not fear, but love.

Introduction: Within this short letter, John repeatedly emphasizes several key themes. We may be tempted to be put off by the repetition, but that would show our weakness. As Chesterton wrote, "grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony." Yet the Spirit has inspired John's words, and the repetition is part of his process for growing and strengthening us by his work. He is helping us to see who we are in Christ.

This text shows us 3 ways that we are Christ's:

1. We have God's Spirit (13-15)

The Holy Spirit is the fount of our assurance and fruitfulness (cf. 3:24).

We know that we abide in God because he has given us his Spirit. And this abiding is not theoretical or future—it is a close clinging here and now.

As we abide in God, we confess our faith in the Son. Our lifelong disposition is to call upon the name of the Lord and to walk in his salvation.

2. We have God's love (16)

The fruit of our confession is to know and believe the love that God has for us.

God *is* love—it is his nature to love and love characterizes him.

We *believe* the love of God as we know and understand the gospel. The truth of who Jesus was and what he did in history compels us to believe God's love.

We *know* the love of God through believing these truths and finding that our hearts have come to a place of settled trust in him.

3. We cast off fear and love instead (17-21)

Three points then arise: a) we are all rightly afraid of the coming judgment; b) when God's love is believed and known, our fear turns to confidence in judgment; c) such is our confidence in the love of God that we go and treat others with love.

Rev 20:11-15 details the scene of the final judgment before God's great white throne.

Those whose sins are not forgiven are cast in the lake of fire; but those whose names are in the book of life are received and welcomed into God's very presence.

Christians can have confidence both now and on that day because of the love of God for us as demonstrated in what we has done to save us.

Questions:

1. Are you regularly experiencing God's forgiveness, grace, and love? Are you abiding in him?

2. When and how do you feel far from God? How are you calling out to him?

3. How do you struggle with fear?