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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

Back to the Basics: A Study of I John - Part XIII

Practicing Perfect Love

I John 4:7-12

- I. **Because you must practice perfect love, you must grasp the motivation for practicing perfect love (vv. 7-8).**

As he begins to urge the congregations to practice perfect love, John provides a few compelling motivations. These are motivations that should compel you to love others.

A. Perfect love originates with God (v. 7).

Not only is God the source of love, but He is also love in the inmost being. God is love in all of His activities.

B. Perfect love identifies you with God (v. 7).

Love is not a virtue that is within us. It is not a virtue that can be gained by experience or effort. Love is from God. God is the originator & giver of love.

C. Lack of love identifies you apart from God (v. 8).

Our failure to love can only mean that we have no true knowledge of God.

- II. **Because you must practice perfect love, you must consider the model of perfect love (vv. 9-10).**

A. Perfect love is illustrated in God sending Jesus (v. 9).

There have been many manifestations of love by God. The sending of Jesus is the greatest of all of his demonstrations.

B. Perfect love is initiated by God (v. 10).

Left to ourselves, we would not love God. We would rebuff Him. It took His boundless, sacrificial love to break our hearts of stone and call us unto Himself.

C. Perfect love is implemented in your propitiation (v. 10).

God sent Jesus to remove your sin. This is the greatest expression of love, and the basis on which we can say that "God is love!"

- III. **Because you must practice perfect love, you must produce the markings of perfect love (vv. 11-12).**

The focus now turns to you. Why should you produce this love?

A. Producing perfect love is logical (v. 11).

No one who has truly seen the love of God on the cross can go back and live a life of selfishness. It's just not possible.

B. Producing perfect love is crucial (v. 12).

If no one has seen God, and if Jesus is God's ultimate manifestation of love, then people will not see God unless believers love one another. Much is at stake!