

PERFECT LOVE

1 JOHN 4:15-21

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Perfect love casts out fear.

How God's love transforms us

- Enables us to rise above dysfunction: We now abide in Him – 4:15-16 *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.*

Q: What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?

A: It's a holistic reorientation of your life around the authority of Jesus Christ. It goes far beyond an empty verbal statement.

Q: What is the result of confessing Jesus as the Messiah?

A: We are no longer far from God. He now lives in us and we in Him. We now live in the borders of His leadership and love.

- Frees us from the fear of final judgment: Condemned to beloved children – 4:17-18 *By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are 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.*
- Empowers us to be initiators – 4:19-21 *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 love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

Action points: Ways we can express love

- Thoughts: Think deeply on the love of Jesus Christ.
- Words: Speak words of Truth in a Christ-honoring tone.
 - Ask forgiveness when and where needed.
 - Own your part vs. Blaming them for theirs.
- Actions: Serve those in your circle of influence.