

## I John 4:13-19

- Intro.** • After reading these verses, can you detect a particular theme concerning “love” that John is attempting to convey to the readers?  
• Why is John pressing this subject of “love” so extensively?
- 4:13** • What does John mean by the mutual “abiding”, “we in Him, and He is us”, that is mentioned three times in this paragraph (vss. 13, 15, 16), and was previously mentioned in 3:24?  
• Why does John consider it important that his readers “know” the reality and the implications of this mutual abiding? (cf. vs. 16 also)  
- because the false-teachers were advocating a “knowing” that was not based on mutual abiding?  
- because John wanted his readers to have orthodox theology?  
- because such “knowing” is a result of spiritual regeneration?  
- because such “knowing” involves an intimacy of personal relationship from which the character of love can be expressed?  
• On what basis does John indicate that Christians should “know” that they participate in the mutual abiding? (cf. 3:24 also)  
• When John writes that “He has given us out of His Spirit”, does he mean that...  
- God has given Christians a part of, a measure of, a share in His Spirit? (cf. Jn. 3:34)  
- God has given Christians the result, or product of His Spirit?  
- God has given Christians the inner witness of His Spirit so they can “know” they have a personal relationship with God? (cf. Rom. 8:16)  
- God has given Christians that which can only have its source and origin from His Spirit?  
- God has given us His Spirit? (cf. 3:24)
- 4:14** • When John writes, “we have beheld and bear witness”, does the “we” refer to...  
- the apostles and other eyewitnesses of Jesus’ physical life? (cf. 1:1)  
- John and his followers having “beheld” spiritually, and that in contrast to the false teachers?  
- all Christians?  
• Is there a connection between the use of “beheld” in vs. 12 and here in vs. 14?  
• If the subject “we” refers to John and his followers, when did they “behold” that “the Father had sent the Son...”?  
- when they had a personal vision or revelation?  
- when they ascended to a particular level of spirituality?  
- when they were regenerated?  
• What is meant by John’s statement that “the Son” is “Savior of the world”?  
- that Jesus is the Redeemer of the world?  
- that Jesus is the Deliverer of the world?  
- that Jesus restores God’s life to the world?  
• If Jesus is “Savior of the world”, does this mean...  
- the fallen world; the world-order of evil? (cf. 4:5)  
- the created world-order? (cf. Rom. 8:15-23)  
- the world of mankind? (cf. John 3:16,17; I Jn. 2:2)

- 4:15**
- What does it mean to “confess that Jesus is the Son of God”?
    - to make a verbal recitation of creedal orthodoxy?
    - to agree that Jesus is the second person of the divine Trinity?
    - to agree with God that Jesus was the mediatorial God-man? (cf. 4:3; I Tim. 2:5)
    - to agree with God that Jesus is the divine Son (cf. 3:8, 23), who by the divine Spirit (cf. 3:24; 4:6,13), restores the indwelling divine life and provides living expression of the divine life in receptive Christians?
  - Is the mutual abiding, (“God in us” and “we in God”) contingent upon confessing that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 4:16**
- When did John and his readers “come to know and believe” God’s love?
  - Is John referring to “the love which God has...”
    - for us?
    - on our behalf?
    - among us?
    - toward us?
    - in us?
  - Could John’s statement be regarded as an answer to the prayer of Jesus recorded in John 17:26?
  - Why does John repeat the statement that “God is love”? (cf. 4:8)
  - Explain how “abiding in love” (cf. John 15:9,10) and “abiding in God” are equivalent.
- 4:17**
- Is there a difference between the statements “love is perfected in us” (4:12) and “love is perfected with us” (4:17)?
  - How is God’s love perfected?
    - Isn’t God’s love already perfect?
    - Is John referring to the perfect expression of God’s love?
  - When John states that “love is perfected *with* us”, does he mean that...
    - love is perfected among us?
    - love is perfected within us?
    - love is perfected as we cooperate with God?
    - love is perfected with regard to us?
    - love is perfected with the expression of His character in our behavior?
  - How does the perfecting of God’s love allow for the consequences of “having confidence in the day of judgment”?
    - the assurance that we have been and done what God wants to be and do in us?
    - the confidence that all judgment has already been taken by Christ? (cf. Jn. 3:17-21)
    - the confidence that our behavior will be revealed to be “gold, silver and precious stones” in the sight of God? (cf. I Cor. 3:10-15)
    - the confidence that our loving expressions have been God’s work in us? (cf. John 14:10; Phil. 2:13)
  - What does John mean by the statement, “as He is, so are we in this world”?
    - As Jesus is the essential nature of God, so we are the nature of God? (cf. II Pet. 1:4)
    - As Jesus is one with God, so we are one with God? (cf. I Cor. 6:17)
    - As Jesus is the Son of God, so we are “sons of God”? (Gal. 3:26)
    - As Jesus is the Savior, so we are saviors as we intercede for others?
    - As Jesus is the functional expression of God’s love for others, so we are to allow for the expression of God’s love for others in our behavior? (cf. 2:6)

- 4:18**
- What kind of fear is not consistent with love?
    - fear of failing to conform to God's expectations? (cf. Rom. 8:15)
    - fear of God? (cf. II Cor. 5:11; 7:1)
    - fear of dying? (cf. Heb. 2:14,15)
    - fear of judgment? (cf. 4:17; Heb. 10:27,31)
    - fear of anything?
  - How does "perfect love cast out fear"?
    - When we love God and respect His sovereignty, we have nothing to fear?
    - When we perfectly express love in our relationships, we have nothing to fear?
    - When God's love was brought to its perfect end in the "finished work" of Christ (cf. John 19:30), then all cause for fear was negated?
    - When God, who is Perfect Love, dwells and functions in us, such love provides a security that supersedes all fear?
  - In what sense does "fear involve punishment"?
    - fear of the consequences for what we are or have done?
    - fear of being held accountable for how we have performed or conformed?
    - fear of eternal punishment in hell? (cf. Matt. 25:46)
    - fear of having our works burned up in the fire? (cf. I Cor. 3:10-15)
  - What is meant by the statement, "the one who fears is not perfected in love"?
    - the fears engendered by the false teachers reveals they do not know God's perfect love?
    - those who are fearful are not Christians?
    - those who are fearful have failed to appreciate the confidence (2:28; 4:17) that can be their's in the "finished work" of Jesus Christ, whereby the functional dynamic of the risen Lord Jesus in us actuates and achieves all that God wants to be and do in us, particularly in expressing His character of love.
- 4:19**
- Which of the following best expresses the meaning of "We love, because He first loved us"?
    - We should love others because Jesus gave us the example of how to love?
    - We should love others because God loved us in giving His Son? (cf. John 3:16)
    - We should love others because Jesus loved us and gave Himself for us? (cf. Gal. 2:20)
    - We love God in response to His previous love for us?
    - We express God's love to others because He regenerated us and gave us His Spirit to enable us to love others? (cf. Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22)
    - We express God's love to others as a result of God's having lovingly restored us with His divine life in order to express His character unto His glory.
- Conc.**
- Can you summarize what John has expressed in these verses?
  - Is there a particular thought in these verses that has impacted your thinking?