

VERSE 17 **By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world** (ἐν τούτῳ τετελείωται ἡ ἀγάπη μεθ' ἡμῶν, ἵνα παρρησίαν ἔχωμεν ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῆς κρίσεως, ὅτι καθὼς ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐσμεν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ τούτῳ [*prep en + pro.loc.nt.s. houtos + pf.act.ind.3s. teleioo make perfect + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. agape + prep meta with + pro.gen.p. ego + conj hina so that + noun acc.f.s. parrhesia confidence, assurance + pres.act.ind.1p. echo have + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. hemera + d.a.w/noun gen.f.s. krisis judgment + conj. hoti because + conj kathos just as + pro.nom.m.s. ekeinos that, he + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + conj kai also + pro.nom.p. ego + pres.act.ind.1p eimi + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.m.s. kosmos + pro.loc.m.s. houtos this*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 17

1. “By this” refers to what follows (cf. 1 Jn. 2:3, 4, 5; 3:10, 16, 19, 24; 4:2, 9, 10, 13, 17; 5:2).
2. When a believer is in fellowship (uses Rebound resulting in the FHS) God the Holy Spirit rules the ‘real you’ (soul) and “love is perfected with us.”
3. This expression is used in 2:5; 4:12, 17 and negatively in 4:18.
4. The divine attribute of love is actualized in us when we are in fellowship.
5. When we apply doctrine towards fellow believers under a variety of circumstances, we are imitators of God.
6. Example: forgiveness.
7. John goes on to assert that the believer who keeps doing the things necessary to maintain perfect love to the end of Ph 2 will have “confidence in the day of judgment.”
8. John made this assertion in 2:28 where he referred to maintaining fellowship as abiding in Him.
9. Temporal confidence is used in 1st John in connection with coming to the aid of a needy believer (3:21) and confidence in prayer (5:14).
10. John makes the bold assertion that “just as He (Jesus) is” so we are in the cosmos.
11. When He was in the cosmos He maintained the law of love
12. Jesus currently in His glorified state is perfect in love and so as we maintain FHS (love) so we are perfect when in fellowship.
13. “To be perfect as your Father in heaven in perfect” refers to being in fellowship.
14. Even with an ISTA we can be perfect when we exhibit love towards God and fellow believers.
15. John uses the strong adverb *kathos* which means ‘just as’ (cf. 2:6, 18, 27; 3:2, 3, 7, 12, 23; 2 Jn. 1:4, 6; 3 Jn. 1:3).
16. We need to apply 1 Jn. 1:9 and we need to keep walking in the truth we have learned.

17. Put another way we need to keep the royal imperatives (commandments cf. 3:24; 5:2, 3; 2 Jn. 1:6).
18. Rebound enables us to reset the love factor.
19. We will not arrive at sinlessness (cf. 2:10), but we must keep applying 1 Jn. 1:9 (cf. 1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
20. A believer who claims to be in fellowship (love for God and others) and who rejects God's directive will is a liar and walks in darkness.
21. "The day of judgment" refers to the Bema Seat (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10) where human good is rejected and divine good is rewarded (1 Cor. 3:12-14).

A Major Enemy to Perfect Love (v. 18)

VERSE 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear

involves torment (φόβος οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν τῇ ἀγάπῃ ἀλλ' ἡ τελεία ἀγάπη ἔξω βάλλει τὸν φόβον, ὅτι ὁ φόβος κόλασιν ἔχει [*noun nom.m.s. phobos fear + neg ouk + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. agape + conj alla + d.a.w/adj.nom.f.s. teleios perfect + noun nom.f.s. agape + adv. ezo out + pres.act.ind.3s. ballo cast + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. phobos fear + conj hoti because + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. phobos + noun acc.f.s. kolasis punishment; "torment" + pres.act.ind.3s. echo has; "involves"]).*

But he who fears has not been made perfect in love (*d.a.w/pres.dep.part.nom.m.s. phobomai be afraid + conj. de but + neg ou not + pf.pass.ind.3s. teleioo make perfect + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. agape*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 18

1. Fear (worry) is a common mental attitude sin and when it rules the believer love is neutralized.
2. This is a way to judge yourself as to whether you are in fellowship or not.
3. If you are under worry you are not in a state of love perfected.
4. Rebound is the first line of defense against this sin, and all sin is lawlessness.
5. To overcome an object of fear the believer has prayer (1 Pet. 5:7 "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.").
6. Claiming God's promises shields you from fear.
7. Making a volitional decision to trust God keeps fear away (Pss. 3:6; 56:3, 4, 11; 91:5; Prov. 3:24, 25; Job 19:28, 29).

8. Rebound and claiming God's promises (like "I will never leave or forsake you." or Heb. 13:6) results in a state where "perfect love casts out fear."
9. Fear of anything is self-induced misery.
10. "Fear involves punishment/misery" to the one under its reign.
11. "The one who fears is not perfected in love" is to assert that one cannot be in fellowship and be under fear.
12. The two do not coexist.
13. Moses' parents did not hide him because of fear (Heb. 11:23), and Moses did not flee Egypt for fear of his life (Heb. 11:27).
14. In the Bible the phrase 'do not be afraid' occurs 164x.

Love of God Demands Love for a Brother (vv. 19-21)

VERSE 19 We love, because He first loved us (ἡμεῖς ἀγαπῶμεν, ὅτι αὐτὸς πρῶτος ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς [*pro.nom.p. ego + pres.act.ind. 3p. agapao + conj hoti + pro.nom.m.s. autos + adj.nom.m.s. protos first + aor.act.ind.3s. agapao + pro.acc.p. ego*]).

VERSE 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar (ἐάν τις εἶπῃ ὅτι Ἀγαπῶ τὸν θεόν καὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ μισῇ, ψεύστης ἐστίν· [*part. ena if + pro.nom.m.s. tis someone + aor.act.subj.3s. eipon of lego say + pres.act.ind.3s. agapao + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos + conj kai + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. adelphos brother + pro.gen.m.s. autos + pres.act.subj.3s. miseo hate + noun nom.m.s. pseutes liar + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi*]); **for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen** [ὃ γὰρ μὴ ἀγαπῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ὃν ἑώρακεν, τὸν θεὸν ὃν οὐχ ἑώρακεν οὐ δύναται ἀγαπᾶν [*conj gar for + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. agapao love + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. adelphos + pro.gen.m.s. autos + pro.acc.m.s. hos whom + pf.act.ind.3s. horao see + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos + pro.acc.m.s. hos + neg ouk + pf.act.ind.3s. horao see + neg ou + pres.dep.ind.3s. dunamai be able + pres.act.infin. agapao*]).

VERSE 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God

should love his brother also (καὶ ταύτην τὴν ἐντολὴν ἔχομεν ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ, ἵνα ὁ ἀγαπῶν τὸν θεὸν ἀγαπᾷ καὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ [*conj kai + pro.acc.f.s. houtos this + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. entole commandment + pres.act.ind.1p. echo have + prep apo + pro.gen.m.s. autos + conj hina that + d.a.w/pres.act.part.nom.m.s. agapao + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. theos + pres.act.subj.3s. agapao + conj kai also + d.a.w/noun acc.m.s. adelphos + pro.gen.m.s. autos*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 10-21

1. The love we have for God is based on God’s eternal love for us, even considering our pre-salvation hostility.
2. God’ love for us is our response to His person and His word.
3. It began with the salvation adjustment.
4. It is perpetuated by our alignment with His directive will expressed in His commandments.
5. Jesus taught this in John 15.
6. God’s love in sending and offering up His Son should be our motivation towards fellow believers.
7. Believers are capable of this same divine love if they put their mind to it.
8. To assert love for God and to exhibit hate for a fellow believer makes the one claiming to love God a liar.
9. This assertion is in the same vein as 1 Jn. 2:4.
10. Failure to love one another is a failure to love God.
11. John restates the idea of incompatibility in v. 20.
12. In verse 21 love for the brethren is a commandment and those who live in hate do not love God (Jn. 13:34; 15:12, 17; 1 Thess 4:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Jn. 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 Jn. 1:5).
13. Those who do not keep God’s commandments do not love Him (Jn. 15:10)
14. Restated here in v. 21.

**END: 1st John Chapter Four
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