



18 OCTOBER 2026 AM

1 John 4:11-17

TRIBE-17

= a close-knit community with shared identity

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:11-12

INTRODUCTION

A DETERMINED TRAJECTORY 4:11-17

- this idea of love John keeps mentioning is quite a challenge...just about the time we think we have done something noteworthy in the area of loving our brother, a new layer reveals how far we have to go

I love my wife, my family, my church

but what about that problem relationship?

what about that rude guy at Walmart?

what about the people who are not saved?

- **holiness, righteousness**...those are really abstract ideas to us in our modern-day living

we think we understand that **God is love 8, 16**

but I'm supposed to love everybody...like God?

verses 12, 17 perfect love

- that is a lot to take in and carry...and the devil defeats us because we just don't see the bigger picture

this is what John would have us to understand

verse 11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought
also to love one another.

NOTE: the punctuation in the outline

1. BASIC FAITH.

We get overwhelmed with too much information coming at us at once. John slowed down a bit to take us back to a basic tenet of our faith.

AN INVISIBLE GOD **verse 12a**

No man hath seen God at any time.

now let that statement sink in...no man has ever seen God at any time

the Old Testament has its share of theophanies and Christophanies

a burning bush, a pillar of fire

Jacob wrestled with an angel

Exodus 33:18-23 Moses caught a glimpse of His glory

1 Kings 19:9-13 Elijah heard a still, small voice

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

declared = literally, to unfold

Colossians 1:15

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Hebrews 1:3

[Jesus is] the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...

this is an important reminder, because we function daily in our Christian walk, fellowshiping with a God we have never seen, yet we know He is...

AN INCREDIBLE GOD **verse 14**

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

John reminds us that he and the other apostles were eyewitnesses to the plan of God unfolding

God is incredible because:

He authored our salvation **Hebrews 5:9**

He provided our salvation **Genesis 3:15**

He continued our salvation **Romans 5:9**

He protects our salvation **John 10:29**

so John takes this idea of loving one another, places it in the reality of an invisible world and asks us to operate on faith and to love one another

*I can love my brother because I trust
a God I've never seen to take care of
ever situation*

2. BROKEN FELLOWSHIP?

The devil will often defeat us with this concept of love. He will convince us that since we fall short, God could not really love us. Here then, is a simple **TEST** of fellowship with the invisible God:

NOTE: the word *dwell*

DO WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER? **verse 12b**

...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

if we are really saved, John says we should be maturing in the love for the brethren

we should be moving *forward*, not *backward*

NOTE: it is one thing to love your brother, but are you loveable towards them?

DOES HIS SPIRIT RESIDE IN US? verse 13

Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

...in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

it is not reasonable that God would seal us with His Spirit and then remove Him from us

but the presence of His Spirit in us bears witness with our spirit that we are saved

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

DO WE CONFESS JESUS IS GOD'S SON? vs 15

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

confess = to see the same way

John used this word in 1:9

John acknowledges that it is possible to get busy or overwhelmed and 'forget' Jesus is the Son of God

worry, doubt, fear, etc.

John 14:13-14

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

we can forget our **POSITION** in Christ

Romans 8:17 ...if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

we can forget our **POWER** in Christ

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...

DO WE DWELL IN HIS LOVE? **verse 16**

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

John reminds us that as believers...

we have *known* God's love and
experienced it when we got saved **9-10**

we have *understood* the principle
that God is love (at least in the abstract)

as a result, we should continue to rest
and abide in His love, even when satan
tells us otherwise

3. BOLD FUTURE!

Now John tells us an amazing fact. It is so simple, yet it should change our entire outlook on this present life.

verse 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

NOTE: the word *herein* is used to introduce something that depends on or arises from what has just been mentioned

therefore; as a result...

A PERFECT LOVE

Herein is our love made perfect...

to paraphrase John: *the perfect example of love has been set before us*

we can't say we don't know what it looks like

1 Peter 2:21

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps...

A PERFECT STANDING

...that we may have boldness in the day of judgment

boldness = confidence

how incredible to think that one result of Christ's love for us is to one day stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and look our Savior in the eye

not cockiness...confidence

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

cf **Matthew 7:23** depart from me...

A PERFECT PRESENT

:because as he is, so are we in this world.

notice that colon (:)...it relates to the word *judgment*

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

God made Jesus to be sin for us, but He is now seated at the right hand of God...our sin has been removed

as he is...so **ARE** we in this world

WE STAND FORGIVEN

John challenges us to live in the present reality of our salvation

if God can forgive us and love us, despite our horrible sin nature...

we can certainly love one another

Romans 6:13

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.