



25 OCTOBER 2026 AM

1 John 4:18-21

TRIBE-18

= a close-knit community with shared identity

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. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1 John 4:17-18

INTRODUCTION

A DISPELLING TRANSACTION 4:18-21

- It is painfully obvious at this point that *perfect* love is not something to be found in any of us

we should certainly aspire to it, but the ultimate example of love will always be God

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.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

in us there will always be some envy, jealousy, and self-seeking, etc.

- consider Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury

he served under King Henry VIII

Protestant, but took oath of loyalty to Pope

helped develop Henry's divorce of Catherine

developed the dogma and the doctrines of the Church of England

allowed the king to marry Anne of Cleves

then declared that marriage unlawful...six months

Edward VI...Queen Mary

recanted his faith 5x

finally, in prison, he made a choice:

Forasmuch as my hand offended in writing what was contrary to my heart, it shall be punished first...

1. SECURITY **verses 18-19**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

NO FEAR

fear = (*phobios*) phobia

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: compare Proverbs 1:7 (9:10)...the fear of the Lord used here refers to *reverential awe*

in this context, John is making the case that we do not have to fear **judgment from God**

Genesis 3:10

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

1 John 2:28 confidence

John 5:24 ...hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation;

Romans 8:1 ...no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus

2 Timothy 1:7 no fear...love, power, sound mind

neither do we have to fear **judgment from others**

if you are afraid your children won't love you,
that isn't love

if you fear losing a spouse, that isn't love

NOTE: fear and love never occupy the same space

**casteth out = to throw off or let go
of a thing and not care where it falls**

Matthew 5:13 salt...cast under foot
casting out demons, etc.

think about it:

envy is fear of missing out

jealousy is fear of being deceived

anger is fear of being mistreated

worry is fear of having no control

NO TORMENT

torment = mental anguish

compare with **torture: physical pain**

in English, the root word means 'to twist'

John goes on to tell us that if we live in fear,
then we are not growing in love

verse 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

what a tremendous statement:

WE love God

WHEN did God love us

WHERE does our love come from

WHY we love Jesus

NOTE: consider the story of Hosea the prophet, and his wife, Gomer

an illustration of the love of God

2. INTEGRITY **verses 20-21**

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

TRUE LOVE IS LOGICAL

once again, John used that bold word: **LIAR**

see **2:4 (22)**

If a man say... **7x**

not just in words, but in actions **3:18**

to be a liar means wanting to present an image of yourself that is contrary to reality

Acts 5:1-5 Ananias and Sapphira

in other words, the way one treats his brother is an indication of his love for God

Matthew 5:23-24 gift at the altar

Matthew 22:36-39 great commandment

TRUE LOVE IS LEGAL

And this commandment have we from him,
that he who loveth God love his brother also.

in the Greek, there is a definite article THE

3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth
in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he
abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

we are **COMMANDED** to love one another...it is not
an option we can choose

I just can't love that person

John 13:34

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one
another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one
another.

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ constraineth us;

= to hold together; to take into custody