

LOVE IS THE PROOF.

1/15/2023 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: 1 John 3:11-18.

B. Regarding the text:

1. There are two ways to test one's Christianity.
 - 1) **The facts** given by God's Word (**1 Peter 3:15**).
 - 2) **The life** that is lived (**Matthew 5:16; Romans 12:1-2**).
2. In the text, John shows a way to prove ourselves. A way in which we can verify our Christianity.
 - 1) **Verses 3-6**: Sin and righteousness is discussed.
 - 2) **Verse 7**: God's people are righteous because they practice righteousness.
 - 3) **Verse 10**: Love is seen as a proof that one is a child of God.

C. In this lesson we will consider: The COMMAND to love, The CONTRAST, The CONFIRMATION, and The CONSIDERATION of love.

DISCUSSION: IN THIS LESSON WE WILL OBSERVE...

I. THE COMMAND TO LOVE (1 JOHN 3:11).

A. John recorded Jesus' command to love (John 15:12).

1. AGAPE love. Its nature can indeed be commanded.
2. Agape love is an action. Defined as, "active goodwill" or "benevolence in action."
3. If agape (love) is primarily a feeling, it would be impossible to command it.
 - 1) It is our feeling coupled with proper action.
 - 2) Christian love is the fruit of His Spirit in the Christian.

B. Agape love is found in:

1. Men's action towards God (**John 14:15** "If ye love...")
2. Men's action towards one another (**1 Peter 1: 22**).

II. THE CONTRAST (1 JOHN 3:12).

A. Cain's action is seen as a contrast to love (Genesis 4:1-8).

B. The action of non-love is unkindness, a getting back attitude, and hardhearted disposition (1 Cor. 13:4-7; Eph. 5:25 "AS").

III. THE CONFIRMATION (1 JOHN 3:13-15).

A. John uses the word KNOW meaning "full knowledge."

1. Same word used in **1 John 5:18-20**.
2. The word is translated "sure" in **Romans 2:2**.

B. We can know where we are (John 13:15; 1 John 4:18-5:2).

C. The world is in a state of spiritual death (Eph. 2:1-3)!

IV. THE CONSIDERATION (1 JOHN 3:16-18).

A. Consider the demonstration of God's love (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).

B. My love is also subject to demonstration (1 John 3:17).

C. Vs. 16: We ought to compare our love with that of our Lord's (Eph. 5:2).

V. CONCLUSION:

A. Love is a powerful tool to overcome many, many adversities.

B. God loves us --- NO QUESTION!

C. Do we love the Lord? (See John 14:15)!