

1 John
(Lesson 12)

Introduction:

1. In this lesson we are examining the information presented in 1 John 4:7-21.
2. As we study this letter we must remember that John wrote it to Christians who were being influenced by false teachers he called "*antichrists*."
 - a. These people created quite a disturbance in the early church.
 - b. John issued a strong warning against their influence (2:26).
3. Even though the "*antichrists*" caused serious problems in the early church, John showed:
 - a. in ch.1-2 how a person can know that he has fellowship with God
 - b. in ch.3-4 how a person can know that he is a child [born] of God.
4. John dealt with a number of conditions that must be met by those who desire to be God's true people, but one condition receives special emphasis.
5. What is one way a person can know:
 - a. that he has fellowship with God? (see 2:9-11)
 - b. that he is a child of God? (see 3:10-16, 23)
6. In 4:7-21, John gave a more detailed treatment of "*love*."
 - a. He wrote about "God's love."
 - b. He showed how God's love is to be reciprocated by His children.

Discussion:

- I. JOHN PRESENTED "GOD'S LOVE" AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS MESSAGE
 - A. John indicated that God is the source of love.
 1. (vs.7b) "*Love is of God.*"
 2. (vs.8b) "*God is love.*"
 - B. John continued by explaining how God demonstrated His love.
 1. (vs.9-10) God demonstrated His love by sending His Son into the world to be "*the propitiation for our sins.*"
 2. (vs.14) John and his fellow apostles saw and testified that the Father sent Jesus to be our Savior (see 1:1-2).
 - C. In laying the foundation for his message, John wrote about God's love.
 - D. Such love deserves to be reciprocated -- this leads to the next point.
- II. GOD'S CHILDREN RECIPROCATE HIS LOVE IN 2 WAYS
 - A. First, God's children reciprocate His love by loving Him (vs.15-19).
 1. Why do God's children love Him? (vs.19 -- "*because he first loved us*").
 2. Those who love God enjoy special blessings.
 - a. (vs.16) Those who love God dwell in Him and vice versa.
 - b. (vs.17) Those who love God will have boldness at the judgment.
 - c. (vs.18) Those who love God overcome fear.
 3. God's children love Him because He first loved us.
 4. There is another way in which God's children reciprocate His love.
 - B. The second way God's children reciprocate His love is by loving each other.
 1. See vs.7a, 11
 2. Special blessings are associated with loving God's children.
 - a. vs.7c
 - b. vs.12b-13
 3. What about those who do not love God's children? (see vs.8a, 20)
 - C. John concluded his message on love with vs.21.
- III. ADDITIONAL PASSAGES
 - A. John 13:34-35
 - B. Ephesians 5:1-2
 - C. Colossians 3:12-14
 - D. 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8