**1 John 4:12-5:2 – Showing God to the world**

**Main: When we love the right way during our lives,**

**we will be confident before God at the end of our lives**

 **1. Manifesting God in the assembly through love 4:12-16**

**Summary: Believers loving one another perfects God’s love among them and He manifests Himself through their fellowship**

* **When we love the way John describes, God is manifested among us. He is seen among men and all men know that we are his disciples (Jn. 13:15)**
* **God’s love is perfected, brought to its goal in us when we love one another.**
* **It is abiders, disciples, people in fellowship with God, who reflect God in the world. It is not an automatic with all Christians. It is an automatic with genuine disciples.**
* **“Of His Spirit” not “Given us His Spirit”.**
* **Christian love is a direct result of the Spirit’s work (Gal. 5:19)**
* **Love isn’t just something we verbally express or feel, but instead we love others when we love God and obey Him. It involves “deed and truth”.**
* **Collectively then, we acknowledge that Jesus gives life and the result is God abiding in our midst.**
* **When we love and acknowledge God’s love in Christ (v. 9-10), it brings God’s love to its goal and we can have confidence in the Day of Judgment.**
* **Love is tied to keeping His commandments.**
* **4:14 is pivotal. This is where the Apostles started the book – 1:1-2**
* **Of course, all he is writing to have already believed in Jesus**
* **Loving this way tells us we abide in Him and it is a reflection of the Spirit in our lives; that’s the only way we can properly love**
* **By loving that way, we testify to the world that Jesus is the Son of God, Savior, the Life-giver (4:14-15).**
* **This acknowledgement is what the antichrists denied – 1 Jn. 2:22**
* **This is essentially involving His ability to give life – Mt. 16:16; Jn. 11:25-27; 20:30-31; also, Lk. 4:41; Jn. 6:69; It is tied up in the definition of the Christ as the Lifegiver – 1 Jn. 5:1a**
* **When John emphasizes love, it seems to involve the Christian community, which then brings love to perfection, its goal.**
* **So, our love for one another is a RE-DISPLAY of God’s love for the world, almost a re-enactment of the incarnation. Humanity, then, sees that we are His disciples (Jn. 13:34-35).**
* **This is done in many ways; teaching, songs, the Lord’s Supper, and so on.**
* **God’s love is essential to obedience (Eph. 3:14-19; 1 Jn. 4:19) and obedience is essential to a deeper love (Jn. 14:21-23).**
* **4:16 “God is love” - The is a second major aspect to God (1 Jn. 1:5).**

**2. Confidence before God – 1 John 4:17-19**

**Summary: When we love one another as God intended, love is perfected or reaches its goal among us and the result is confidence when Christ comes.**

* **Confidence or shame? 2:28, 4:17**
* **When we love the brethren as Jesus commanded, we don’t have to fear punishment later, but instead have “confidence” or “boldness” v. 17**
* **When we as a fellowship don’t love the way we were commanded, we don’t perfect His love and lose the confidence we could otherwise have**
* **We don’t have to fear at the Judgment Seat, because of this “perfected love” in the assembly.**
* **If we don’t love, we do have to fear punishment (1 Jn. 4:18b) because we’re not loving as He commanded and, of course, not perfecting love.**
* **Love was initiated by God (v. 10, 19) and gives us the impetus for love.**
* **Just as His forgiveness is an example and motivation to forgive (Eph. 4:30-31), His love “kick-starts” our love.**

**3. The necessity of love for the brethren 1 Jn. 4:20-5:2**

**Summary: Love for an unseen God can only be properly expressed in love for our visible brother who we are united with by a common Father.**

* **Love for an unseen God can only be properly expressed in love for our visible brother**
* **Love for God and man is united in the great command.**
* **“Must” is not in the original; “Should?”**
* **But who should we consider our “brother” or “sister”? 5:1**
* **We don’t only love believers who live a good life. Our love is not tied to their behavior, but their paternity.**
* **Love is tied to a familial relationship.**