**1 John 4:7-12 - He loved us in spite of us**

**Review**

**OUTLINE OF 1 JOHN – How to have fellowship with God**

**I. Prologue: The Call to Fellowship (1:1-4)**

**II. Preamble: Living in Fellowship with God (1:5-2:11)**

**III. Purpose: Resist the Antichrists (2:12-27)**

**IV. Body of the Epistle: The life that leads to boldness before the Judgment Seat (2:28-4:19)**

**A. The Theme Verse: Abide to be bold (2:28)**

**B. Learning to see God’s Children (2:29-3:10a)**

**C. Learning to see Christian love (3:10b-23)**

**D. Learning to see the God of love (3:24-4:16)**

**1. God’s indwelling acknowledged (3:24)**

**Turning a house into a home**

**2. God’s Spirit recognized (4:1-6)**

**By apostolic truth; God’s Word**

**3. God’s indwelling recognized (4:7-10)**

**E. Conclusion: Having Boldness at the Judgment seat (4:17-19)**

**V. CONCLUSION: How to live obediently (4:20-5:17)**

**1. God’s indwelling recognized (4:7-10)**

**4:7-8 - The Christian who loves knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God – 4:7-8**

* **A Christian who loves is 1) Born of God and 2) Knows God; he is a believer in growing fellowship with God and knows Him intimately.**
* **As we said earlier, it is our new self that distinguishes us in the world. But the problem is we still possess a sinful side of us; the flesh.**
* **Failure to love is a failure to manifest our true selves. That person does not know God as he should – 1 Jn. 3:6.**
* **Knowing God involves obedience – 1 John 2:3-5; Jn. 14:15; 15:1-8**
* **First, John tells us that God is light. Now, he tells us God is also love.**
* **Love is at the core of who God is and what God does.**
* **A believer can’t fellowship with God and not love; it’s His greatest commandment – Mt. 22:36-40 (Two critical parts)**
* **“Familiarity breeds contempt.” We often don’t appreciate what we’re familiar with. It’s true even when we know well passages.**

**2. What God’s love is like 4:9-10**

**4:9-10 - God’s love is manifested in initiating love toward us and sending His Son to die for sins.**

**A. It is exemplified in the death of Christ for us – 4:9**

**B. It is shown in God’s initiation – 4:10**

* **Christ died that we might both possess and experience life**
* **God initiated love – v. 10; odd that we would question His love for us.**
* **Jesus satisfies God’s justice regarding sins v. 10**

**3. God’s love is a model for us – 4:11**

* **A moral obligation to love other believers, “one another” - Jn. 13:34-35**
* **Consider the extent to which God loved us – Jn. 3:16**
* **It is not possible to have fellowship with the God who is love and who acts according to love and not love ourselves.**
* **It is a mistake to think this is optional, “A new command is give you…”**
* **That’s what we do with the family of God. You don’t get to choose family.**

**4. How people can see God – 4:12**

**Just as John emphasizes manifesting God through righteousness, here he emphasizes manifesting God through love.**

* **People don’t see God. When we love one another, people “see” God through the Body of Christ**
* **Our house becomes a home through obedient love “God abides in us”**
* **Only when we understand God’s love for us and respond can we say His love has been “perfected in us.”**