



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 4:17-21

Confidence and Future Judgment

by Bob DeWaay

June 18, 2017

Boldness and Future Judgment

1 John 4:17a (NASB)
By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment

- “By this” = mutual abiding in love (vs 16)
- Completed love undergirds assurance
- “Confidence” is *parre_sia*, “boldness” which is ironic on judgment day

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 1

Like Jesus in the World

1 John 4:17b (NASB)
because as He is, so also are we in this world.

John 15:10 (NASB)
If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

- This is relational not ontological

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 2

Fear Thrown Out

1 John 4:18 (NASB)
There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

- Believers who abide in God’s love do not fear judgment
- Fear is literally “thrown outside”
- This does not apply to false assurance

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3

As He Is	False Professors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1Jn 4:16 (abide in love) ▪ Jn 15:10 (keeps His commandments) ▪ Jn 15:19 (hated by the world) ▪ 1Jn 4:18 (love that throws out fear) <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Perfected in Love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1Jn 4:20 (hates his brother) ▪ 1Jn 4:20 (disobeys) ▪ 1Jn 4:5 (loved by the world) ▪ 1Jn 4:18 (promote fear [implied]) <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Not Right With God</p>

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 4

The Priority of God’s Love

1 John 4:19 (NASB)
We love, because He first loved us.

- Jesus laid down His life (1 John 3:16)
- God sent His Son (1 John 4:10)
- God’s love never changes (James 1:17)
- Our love is grounded in God’s prior action
- We have God’s promises (Heb. 6:18)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

Empty Talk Is Not Love

1 John 4:20 (NASB)
If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

- We cannot see if they do love God
- We can see if they do not love fellow Christians

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6

Love Other Christians

1 John 4:21 (NASB)
And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

- Loving God and fellow Christians is the essence of Christian love
- The false teachers rejected the church grounded in true apostolic teaching

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 7

Implications and Applications

- Those with true faith in God through Christ do not come under judgment
- Believers are free from the fear of death
- Do not allow unauthorized law-givers to use fear to intimidate you

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 8

Believe in Christ and Live

John 5:24 (NASB)
Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

- John uses *metabaino*, “crossed over” which is also in 1 John 3:14
- Believers have gone from the domain of death to that of life, eternal life

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 9

Free From Fear of Death

Hebrews 2:14, 15 (NASB)
Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might **render powerless** him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might **free** those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

- Key terms are *katargeo*, (nullify) and *apallasso*, (to rescue, set free)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 10

Important Considerations

- Jesus is the *arche_gos* or “champion” who defeated Satan (Heb. 2:10)
- He ‘nullified’ (Lane) the power of the evil tyrant and rescued those enslaved
- All humans face death and are captives, powerless over it (thus fear)
- The Son of God assumed humanity to secure our release (see Is. 49:24-26)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 11

Do Not Fear False Law-givers

Matthew 12:9, 10 (NASB)
Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. And a man was there whose hand was withered. And **they questioned Jesus**, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—**so that they might accuse Him**.

- Jesus had declared Himself Lord of Sabbath (vs 8)
- Context: Sabbath controversies

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 12

Humans Are More Valuable

Matthew 12:11, 12 (NASB)
And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

- Jesus makes a determination that invalidated their traditions

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 13

They Want Him Dead

Matthew 12:13, 14 (NASB)
Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to **how they might destroy Him**.

- Human law-givers think they speak for God and want those who resist dead

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 14
