

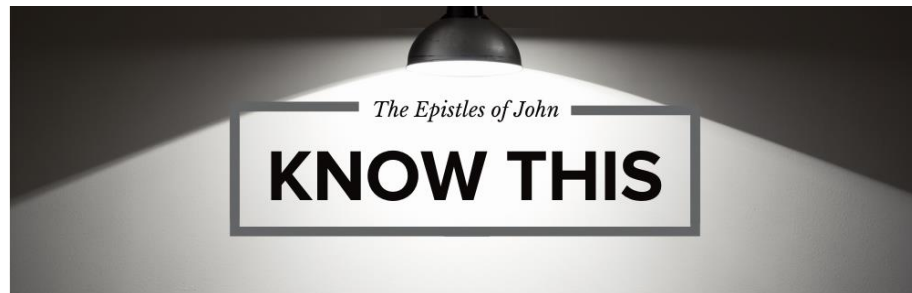


Pray

What fear or hatred do you need to confess to God in prayer and repent from?

Whose salvation are you praying for? Write their name(s) below.
Will you commit to pray for them every day?

How does verse 19 move you to praise God?



The Epistles of John

KNOW THIS

The Power of Love | 1 John 4:17-5:5
Study Guide 13 for sermon on 3/28/2021



Introduction

In 1 John 4:7-5:5, John has one word on his mind: love. The word “love” shows up thirty times in that brief span. In the nine verses for this study guide, the word “love” appears sixteen times. This is where a tired critique of 1 John may be heard: “It’s so repetitive.” What if the problem isn’t with John’s repetition but with our retention? As soon as you put down this study and turn on some form of media, you will be compelled to forget “love” and embrace “anger.” To be sure Christians should carry a “holy anger” about some things we see in this world and in ourselves. However, John is clear in this passage about the unmatched power and importance of love in the way we live.



Overview

Context: In the previous passage John argues that God’s love for us is best displayed in Christ’s death for our sins. God’s love for us in the gift of His Son is our motivation for obeying the command to love one another. With that motivation in mind John now describes how love impacts our relationships with God, each other, and the world.

Structure:

- I. Christian love and our future with God (4:17-18)
- II. Christian love and our relationships with each other (4:19-21)
- III. Christian love and our place in the world (5:1-5)



Engage

1. Verses 17-18 describe one way love impacts our relationship with God. What does John mean when he describes love that is “complete” or “perfect”?
2. According to verse 18, what future appointment with God does love prepare us for? In what way does love ready us for that appointment?
3. Why has verse 19 always been so important for the church? For you?
4. Is there any correlation between the perfect love that drives out fear in verse 18 and our ability to love one another in verse 19? What does fear do to our practice of love?
5. What does hate (v. 20) for our brother or sister look like? What other verses in 1 John help answer this question?
6. Why is it impossible to love an invisible God (v. 21) if you do not love your brothers and sisters?
7. Why must we maintain a connection between God’s love and His commands (5:2)? What is the danger of separating them?
8. Do you consider obedience a joy or a burden (5:3)? What can you do to make it more of a joy?
9. What does it mean for believers to have conquered the world (5:4)? What role does faith play?