

# Living On Love

(1 Jn.4:12-21)

# I. Godhead, 12-16

# 12: invisible but loving

No one has seen God.

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him – Jn.1:18

...who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. – 1 Tim.6:16

# 12: invisible but loving

No one has seen God.

He gives evidence that we can see –

- ▶ His children's strong love for one another
- ▶ Gives strong evidence of our love of God

1. When we love, He abides in us.

- Gal.2:20, *Christ lives in me*
- Gal.4:19, *until Christ is formed in you*
  - Formed: take on Christ-like character
  - Ep.4:13...15

# 12: invisible but loving

No one has seen God.

He gives evidence that we can see –

- ▶ His children's strong love for one another
- ▶ Gives strong evidence of our love of God

1. When we love, He abides in us.

2. Those who hate host another occupant.

- Jn.13:27 . . . *satan entered into him*
  - Sop: final gesture of love.
  - Judas hardens heart; satan enters

# 12: invisible but loving

No one has seen God.

He gives evidence that we can see –

- ▶ His children's strong love for one another
- ▶ Gives strong evidence of our love of God

1. When we love, He abides in us.

2. Those who hate host another occupant.

**3.** His love is perfected – reaches its goal in us.

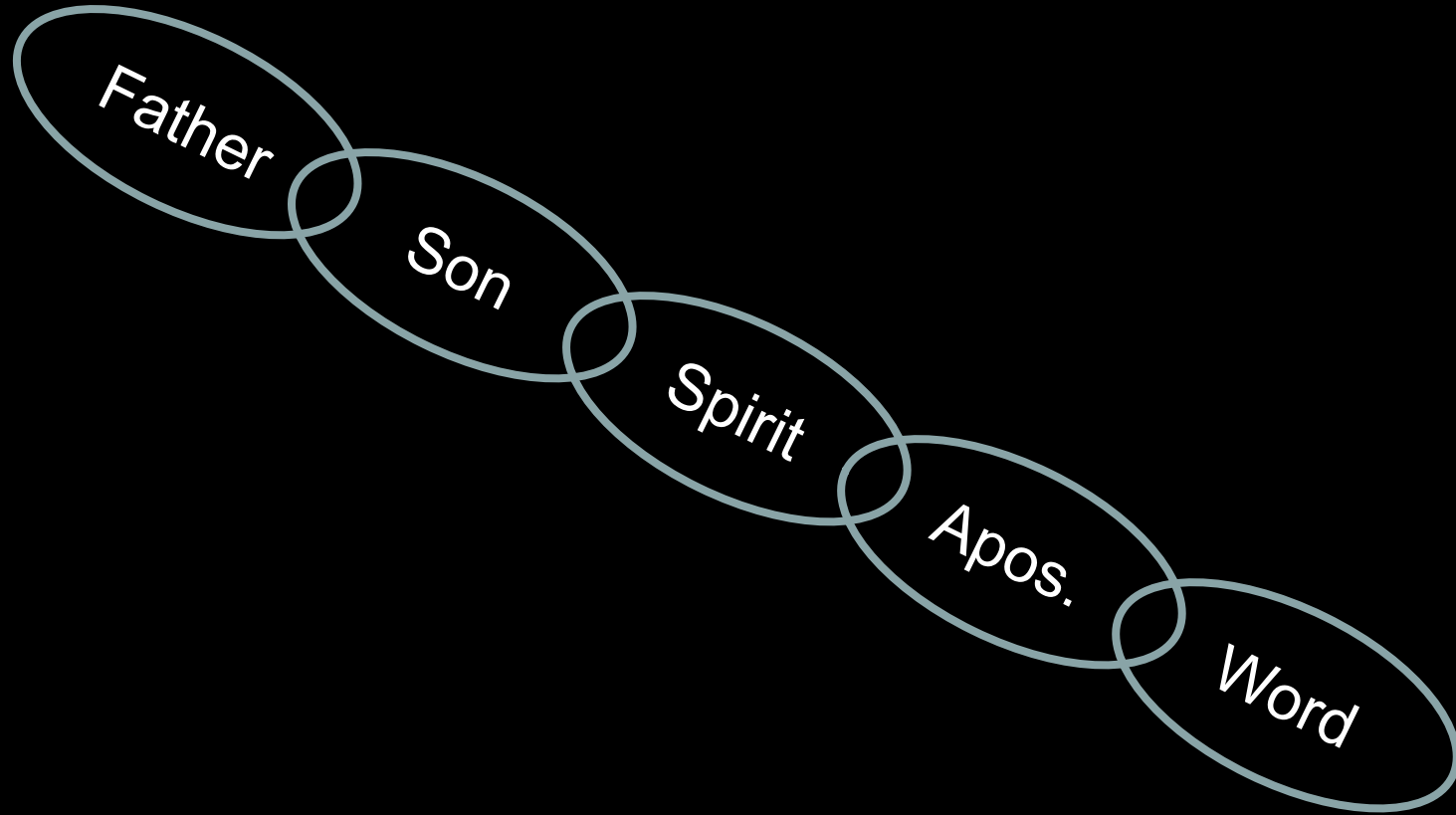
## 12: invisible but loving

### 3. His love is perfected – reaches its goal in us.

“Perfect is that beyond which there is no further advance in excellence or quality in its genus, which lacks nothing of its own excellence. In this sense the word is not primarily ethical; it is purely formal and may ref. to a physician, a flautist, an informer, or a thief” – Aristotle, *Metaph.* IV.16

# 13: knowable

Chain:



1 Co.13 – **love.**    Ga.5 – **fruit.**



# 14: ultimate Giver (sent His Son)

Apostles beheld (1:1-2)

- Son. [They never saw Father, 4:12]
- Savior of world.

Greatest Giver: **God**

Greatest Gift: **Son**

Greatest Goal: **world**

# 15: ultimate Giver

## Father blesses us through His Son

- Christians confess Son of God, in flesh (4:2-3)
- God abides in him, he in God.

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him” – Jn.14:23

# 16: God is love (8)

Not convertible terms

Love is God's character; He acts in love

## 1. He who abides in love, implies...

Some do not abide in Him; 2:19.

Salvation depends on abiding in Him.

## 2. Some deny God is love

Atheist: **a**flawed Bible; **b**disasters

Worldly: God is 'cosmic killjoy'

I. Godhead, 12-16

II. Judgment, 17-18

## 17: God's love (16) is perfected

**Perfect:** made whole, mature; state of mind and activity when His love in us accomplishes what He intends.

- Among us (with us): His love among us rises to new level of brotherly love.
- Confidence: Love (His + ours) casts out fear. [Greeks / Romans did not know...]
- Like Him: He makes us like Himself (3:3).

# 18: God's love prepares us for Judgment

Two kinds of fear:

- Awe, respect. Ph.2:12.
- Terror, dread. Ac.24:25; Hb.10:31.

No fear in love?

1. He forgives our sin.
2. He is 'for us.'
3. His love seeks to save us (17). Mt.18:12...

I. Godhead, 12-16

II. Judgment, 17-18

III. Application, 19-21

# 19: God's love is our source and pattern

Without His love, we would not know love.

- **Persians**
- **Modern societies**

His love sought out enemies to save . . . at His own expense. Ro.5:8.

His love lifts us higher as we imitate Him.  
1 Jn.3:16

**Apostles** (Mt.-Jn.)

Ac.4:13

**Saul** (enemy...)

**Mark** (2 Tim.4:11)



## 20: our actions have consequences

“If we say...” (cf. 1:6, 8, 10).

“If someone says...” (4:20).

- Mere profession is worthless.

“He is a liar...” cut off from eternal life.

- Do not love brother: cannot love God
- If God merely ‘speaks’ loving words...?
- Brother on earth...Father in heaven

If the seen is not loved, is the Unseen?

# 21: brother love is not a suggestion...

Jn.13:34-35

Ro.13:9-10

Objection:

“I can love God without loving my brother; I prove it by keeping His commandments.”

**Reply:** Claim reveals the error: you can't keep His commandments without loving your brother.