

## 1 John 4:12-21

Love: The Result Of God  
Living In Us

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### Helpful Background Information

- Gnostics believed their divine spark could ascend to heaven where they would see the “divine essence” mystically!
- The false teachers John faced were “Secessionists” who demonstrated their lack of love by withdrawing from fellowship.

**True Knowledge of God:**

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God/ must love  
 1 John 4:13-15 Spirit in us/ we confess Christ  
 1 John 4:16-21 God living in us leads us to love

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
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### True Evidence of Knowing God

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

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### The Evidence of The Holy Spirit

1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

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### The Apostolic Witness To Christ

1 John 4:14-15 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

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### Summary Slide of "Theaomai"

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory...

1 John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen...

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time...

1 John 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior...

- **Apostles** have seen God (Jesus' incarnation)
- **Heretics** have not seen God in His unmediated essence. No one has!

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### We Have No Fear of Judgment

1 John 4:16-17 We have come to **know** and **have believed** the love which God has for us. God is love and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

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### Those Who Don't Love - Fear Judgment

1 John 4:18-19 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. We love, because He first loved us.

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### The Elect Love One Another

1 John 4:20-21 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. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

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## Application

1. True believers will not forsake the assembling together because they love their new family.
2. We know God through apostolic authority, not subjective, ecstatic experiences.
3. We can love only because God lives within us.

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## 1. True Believers Love The Assembly

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

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## 2. We Know God By Apostolic Authority

"...a theology of mysticism provides some hope for common ground between Christianity and Islam. Both religions have within their histories examples of ecstatic union with God" (Campolo, *Speaking My Mind*, 149).

1 John 4:14-15 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

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## 2. We Know God By Apostolic Authority

Hebrews 2:3b-4 After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

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## 3. We Love Because God Is In Us

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

1 John 4:12b...if we love one another, (then) God abides in us...

- Deny Consequent: God does not abide in us.
- Therefore: We don't love one another!

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## 3. We Love Because God Is In Us

Isaiah 64:6-7 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment...There is none who calls on Your name.

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