

Blessed Hope Bible Church

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*Learning ...
Loving ...
Leaning ...
Living ...
Leading ...
By the Word
of God*





Preaching theme

1 JOHN

finding what's real in a world of fake

THE FRUIT OF PERFECTED LOVE

1 JOHN 4:17-21

“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God **abides** in us, and His love has been **perfected** in us.”

1 John 4:12

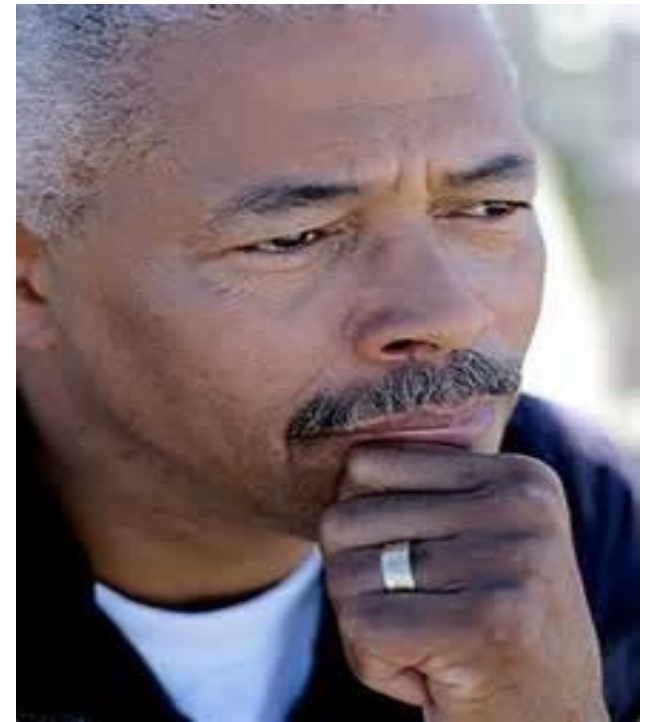
- We know that we abide in God and that God abides in us by the Spirit He has given us (e.g., which we have received by faith)
 1. By the Spirit we testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
 2. By the Spirit we confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 3. By the Spirit we have known and believed the love that God has for us (e.g., we have **responded to God's love and His love is manifested in our lives**).

- If the presence of God is **real** in one's life, the love of God will be **perfected** in that life, that is, it will achieve the purpose for which God intended--that we love as God loves.
- When God's love is **perfected** in our lives, the result is personal **assurance**.



Big Question:

How does the perfecting of God's love in our lives produce assurance?



PERFECTED LOVE RESULTS IN PERSONAL CONFIDENCE

- **THE TEXT:** Love has been perfected among in this: that we may have **boldness** in the day of judgment.
 - **Remember:** “whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is **perfected** in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” (1 John 2:4-5)
 - **Remember:** “If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been **perfected** in us.” (1 John 4:12)

- **THE TRUTH:** Perfected love (i.e., love that has accomplished God's purpose in us) produces **boldness** in divine judgment.
 - **Fact #1:** Everyone will stand before God in judgment (cf., Heb.9:27; Matt.12:36; Acts 17:30-32; Rom.14:12; 2Cor.5:10)
 - **Fact #2:** A believer can have boldness in the day of judgment (e.g., because of his faith in Christ, the believer shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24).
- **THE TEACHING:** If God's love has been **perfected** in our lives, it will produce confidence before God in our lives—God is not a **threat** to us!



ARE YOU CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL NOT COME UNDER DIVINE JUDGMENT?

PERFECTED LOVE RESULTS IN PERSONAL COURAGE

- **THE TEXT:** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear (cf., 2Tim.1:17)



- **THE TRUTH:** Perfected love defeats fear.
 - **Question #1: What is fear?**
 - Fear is an emotional **reaction** to circumstances, real or imagined, that are considered a **threat** to the self.
 - In one sense, fear is a normal and even healthy because it is an awareness of impending hurt, harm, or danger--in this sense fear is a **defense mechanism**.
 - In other sense, fear can be dangerous and even unhealthy because it is an emotional **apprehension** to nameless, imagined, unjustified anxieties and worries.
 - Normal, healthy fear can **empower** us for action; but abnormal, unhealthy fear and **paralyze** us; drive us to withdrawal, depression and despair; and even make us more susceptible to the very danger at hand.

– **Question #2: What do most people fear?**

- failure/rejection
- personal shame/embarrassment
- loss of possessions, happiness, or security
- being hurt emotionally and physically
- uncertainty about the future or the unknown
- lack of control over life's circumstances
- death

– **Question #3: Why do people fear?**

- because of something in the past that **haunts them**
- because of something in the present that **upsets them**
- because of something in the future that **threatens them**
- because of a combination of all three



– Question #4: How does love defeat fear?

- **Premise #1: There is no fear in love**

- If we really love someone, there is no need to fear, because there is no threat for the one who loves.
- If we really love God, there is a reverential and respectful fear (i.e., the fear of the Lord) that is the result of personal trust in the Lord; God's judgment is no longer a threat (e.g., fear of God's judgment shows that one does not trust God's promises nor understand God's love).
- If we really love one another, as a result of our love for God, even if we are threatened by the hatred, abuse, and hostility of others, our trust in the goodness, faithfulness, truthfulness, and trustworthiness of God will give us peace and assurance, that will erase all fear of what others might do to us.
- **Rom.8:15: "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out 'Abba, Father.'"**

- **Premise #2: Perfect love cast out fear**

- **Problem:** Fear involves torment (i.e., it anticipates hurt, harm, and danger from a threat--the threat of God's judgment; the threat men's abuse).
- **Problem:** The anticipated torment that comes from fear produces stress, depression, frustration, despair, and hopelessness (e.g., God does not want anyone feeling like this!!).
- **Solution:** Love for God is the result of trust in God—and trust in God produces confidence, conviction, boldness, assurance, courage--all of which defeat fear!

- **THE TEACHING:** He who fears has not been made perfect in love
 - Fear is the greatest weapon that the devil uses against us
 - The key to overcoming fear is to allow the love of God to be **perfected in our lives.**
 - **Remember:** The love of God is **perfected** in our lives when we keep His word.
 - **Remember:** The love of God is **perfected** in our lives when we love one another.
 - The love of God defeats fear because it is the result of genuine **trust** in God.
 - It allows us to face our fears (real or imagined) with faith in God's wisdom, goodness, truthfulness, faithfulness, trustworthiness.
 - It produces within us confidence, conviction, boldness, assurance, and courage--in spite of our fears (real or imagined).

PERFECTED LOVE RESULTS IN PERSONAL CONVICTION

- **THE TEXT:** We love Him because He first loved us.
- **THE TRUTH:** Our love is based on His love
 - We love God because He first loved us, that is, we are **responding** to His love for us.
 - We love one another because He first loved us, that is, our love for one another is a **response** to God's love for us.

- **THE TEACHING:** If we are living in hatred, we have neither understood God's love nor have properly responded to God's love.
 - **Problem:** Anyone can claim that they love God--that love is selfish and conditional (e.g., a love based upon what they expect God to do for them).
 - **Logic:** If anyone claims to love God (e.g., love comes from God and God is love) and hates his brother, that person is a liar.
 - **Question:** Why do we hate others?
 - Racial reasons
 - Political, philosophical, social, or religious reasons
 - Cultural reasons
 - Personal reasons
 - **Principle:** You cannot love God whom you cannot see (e.g., no man has seen God at any time) and harbor hatred for your brother whom you can see.

CHALLENGE

God wants you to live in an atmosphere of personal confidence, courage, and conviction—this the result of His love being perfected in your live!

RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, guilty of sin and responsible and accountable to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by receiving His salvation through your faith in Him alone.