**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

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**LOVE HATE**

Perfected Love

1 John 4:7-21



Lying has always been a **bad** thing.

We usually lie because we are **avoiding** or **accommodating** or both.

When Jesus confronts the Jews, he says …

*Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father,* ***you would love me****, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. … You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.* ***When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies****.* John 8:42,44

*If anyone says, “****I love God****,” and hates his brother, he is a* ***liar****; for he 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:* ***whoever loves God must also love his brother****.* 1 John 4:20–21

Love the **sinner** and hate the **sin**.

Sin is just a theory until it is enacted by a human being.

but God shows **his love for us** in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been **justified by his blood**, much more shall we **be saved by him** from the wrath of God. For if **while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received reconciliation**. Romans 5:8–11

Here is the sticky statement, the big idea …

To **hate** your brother is to **lie** about your love.

Let your **love** tell of the **Truth**.

This is a contrast … those who know God, born of God, love God …

**Love one another!**

Love is a sign of your **salvation**.

*Beloved,* ***let us love one another****, for love is from God, and* ***whoever loves*** *has been* ***born of God*** *and* ***knows God****. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.* 1 John 4:7-8

*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you,* ***unless one is born again*** *he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* John 3:3

You do not know **love** … until His love **saves** you.

***In this*** *the love of God was made manifest among us, that* ***God sent his only Son into the world****, so that we might live through him.* ***In this*** *is love, not that we have loved God but that* ***he loved us*** *and* ***sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*** 1 John 4:9-10

*For* ***God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son****, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* John 3:16–17

When you come to know God and be born of God, then the God who is unseen becomes visible in love.

Your love puts Jesus’s love on **display** to the world.

***Beloved****, if God so loved us,* ***we also ought to love one another****. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God* ***abides*** *in us and* ***his love is perfected in us****.* 1 John 4:11-12

A visible love is a **perfected** love … it is finished, complete and perfect.

τελειόω*teleioō* - complete; perfect; finish

Love is perfected when we love with the love that God has loved us with. It is made complete or whole.

Your **outward** love is a sign of your **inward** relationship with God.

*By this we know that we* ***abide*** *in him and he in us, because* ***he has given us of his Spirit****. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his* ***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.***1 John 4:13-15

μένω*menō* - Abide - to continue a certain state, condition, or activity.

***So*** *we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.* ***God is love****, and* ***whoever abides in love abides in God****, and* ***God abides in him****.* ***By this is love perfected with us****, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because* ***as he is so also are we*** *in this world.* 1 John 4:16-17

Perfected love gives you **confidence** at **judgement**.

***There is no fear in love****, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:18-19

*For* ***we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ****, so that each one may receive what is due* ***for what he has done in the body****, whether good or evil.* 2 Corinthians 5:10

Fear cannot be present where love is being lived out and perfected or make complete.

A perfect love **prepares** an imperfect world for a perfect place called heaven.

God’s love is **perfected** by His love living through you.

Receive God’s **love**.

Abide in God’s **love**.

Love others with the **love** that you have **received** in Christ.