

## **The Essentials of Our Faith – Studies In I John #17**

Love Part II – Abiding In Love

I John 4:13-21

### **I. Abiding In Love**

- A.** Abide – 23 times in I John
- B.** Dwell, inhabit, live, lodge, reside, or rest
- C.** Implies continuance, faithfulness, permanence
- D.** For John, this is the characteristic of a relationship with God
- E.** John 15:4
- F.** Abiding produces John 15:5
- G.** To abide in God means to abound
  - To be fully supplied with all we need for a daring, adventuresome, exciting and truly satisfying life
  - To the degree we stay connected to our source - God

### **II. The Abundance That Is Ours Through Abiding In His Love**

- A.** We receive the Holy Spirit VS 13
  - Enabling power
  - Gifts
  - Fruit
  - He works in and through us
- B.** The presence of God that loves us in the deepest dimensions of our inner self VS 14-17
  - Frees us to confess Jesus as Lord
  - God's love is perfected in us
  - Accomplished its purpose
  - Love for Him
  - Love ourselves
  - Love others
  - He reconstructs us to see things in ourselves and others
  - Our ability to love is dependent on our abiding in Him
- C.** Abiding love casts out fear VS 18
  - We are afraid when we doubt God's abiding presence
  - We're all alone
  - We've drifted away
  - Fear of people, challenges, the unexpected and the future
  - God's love says, "I will never leave you or forsake you."
  - When we know we are loved and forgiven and that God is with us we can face anything

**D.** Abiding gives us the motivating power of prevenient grace VS 19-21

- It goes before
- God loves first
- He is always ahead of us
- To love others is possible because God loved them first
- Our love is always in response

### **III. Thoughts**

- A.** Abundance is dependent on abiding
  - Without abiding the Christian life is up to us
  - Effort, work, striving
  - It all leads to death
  - The active presence of the Holy Spirit is the evidence of abiding
  - His gifts, His fruit
  - This is how you know
  - Ephesians 5:18 "be continuing to be influenced by the Holy Spirit"
  - Everything comes from abiding – this is how we love each other
- B.** Fear and abiding
  - When I feel alone, guilty, inadequate, I am afraid
  - When I fear the worst or the unknown, I feel afraid
  - God's perfect love gives me confidence because in spite of my feelings and fears His love never fails!
  - His love casts out my fears
  - My response is boldness in loving God and my brothers and sisters
  - It's the evidence!