

Love's Accomplishment

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I John 4:13-21.
- B. John is discussing how to maintain love.
- C. It is easy to love those who love us, but this is not love.
- D. Godlike love is the acceptance of another person because he is a person.

II. Where God's life is God's love will be.

A. Faith produces love.

1. We abide in God—having a continual relationship with Him—because He has given us His Spirit.
2. The Spirit makes Christ more real than He ever was in the flesh.
3. God's love is only a product of His Spirit. (Romans 5)
4. The Father sent the Son—He was the Son before He came.

B. Love always follows the life of God.

C. Marks.

1. Faith always produces love.
2. Love without faith is phony.
3. The only loving person is one who abides habitually in love.

III. The practical results of this kind of love.

A. Confidence in the Day of Judgment.

1. Love that is perfected in the Day of Judgment is made visible in deeds.
2. The secret to Christian living is to recognize Christ's willingness to do all that He demands in us.

B. Fear imprisons us, but perfect love casts out fear.

IV. We love because He first loved us.

V. If we say we love God, our love for our brother will prove it.

Application questions:

1. Why is the Spirit essential for love to be genuine?

2. Explain the relationship between love for God and love for others.

3. How is your love being visibly demonstrated for others in your daily life? How can you reach out in love to someone you do not particularly like this week?
