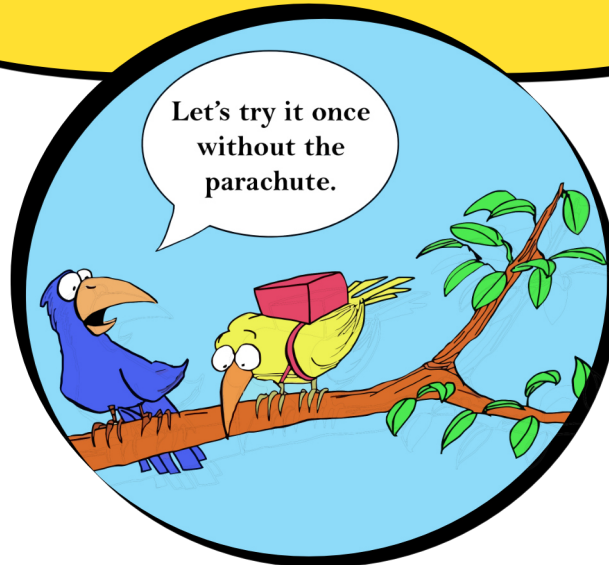


## PERFECT LOVE YIELDS FEARLESS LIVING

*So how do we do that?*



1. We live without fear when we live in perfect love because perfect love casts out fear, 4:18.

2. Loving our brothers and sisters in Christ affirms our love for God and God's love for us, 4:7-8.

### **Perfect Love**

**Definition ...** Perfect love is the finished work of the love of God in our lives which is based on the finished work of Christ on the cross which draws us into full union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Statement of fact ...** Perfect love casts out fear.

Perfect is the Gk. word **τελειόω** [*teleioō*] and means to bring to an end, to complete; to finish, make perfect; having reached its end; to be fully or become thoroughly or entirely accomplished.

- (1 John 4:18 LSB) 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**.
- (John 19:30 ESV) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is **finished**," [*τετέω*] and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- (1 John 2:5b LSB) But whoever keeps His word, truly **in him the love of God has been perfected**.
- (1 John 4:12 LSB) No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, **God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us**.

- (1 John 4:7-8 LSB) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; **and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God**. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- a. This gives testimony—to ourselves and to others—that we have been born of God and know God.
  - (1 John 3:14 LSB) **We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers**. The one who does not love abides in death.
- b. Loving our brothers and sisters in Christ in obedience to God's command shows that the "perfect love" of God is working in our lives.
  - (1 John 2:3-5b LSB) And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, **truly in him the love of God has been perfected**.
- c. Those who love God for giving them new birth also love the others who have been born of God.
  - (1 John 5:1 LSB) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, **and everyone who loves the One**

who gives new birth loves also the one who has been born of Him.

### 3. Living in the perfect love of God reveals our source of life—that we are living through the Son, 4:9-14.

- (1 John 4:9–14 LSB) By this the love of God was manifested in us, **that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.** 10 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.** 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has beheld God at any time; **if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.** 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 We have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.
- a. **The life of Christ is manifested in our lives as we love our brothers and sisters in Christ as God loves us.**  
4:9 Manifested ... Gk. *φανερῶ* [*phaneroō*] ... to make visible, make clear; make evident; to be or become clearly revealed to the mind, the senses, or judgment.
  - (Galatians 2:20 LSB) I have been crucified with Christ, **and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.** And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- b. **Loving one another is the original, divine, intended social order from the beginning of time.**
  - (1 John 3:11–12 LSB) **For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning,** that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

### 4. God is love so when we live in love we live in God and love is perfected with us, 4:15-21.

- (1 John 4:15–21 LSB) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him, and he in God.** 16 **And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has in us.** God is love, and the one who abides in love

abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 **By this, love has been 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. 18 **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.** 19 **We love, because He first loved us.** 20 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. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

- a. **God initiates the process of perfect love—4:19.**
- b. **Perfect love is evidence of our trust in God and our belief in the love he has *in* us—4:16.**
- c. **In this intimate, abounding love relationship with God we have confidence in the day of judgment—4:17.**
- d. **We have confidence because we love God and consequently know God and so are known by God.**
  - (1 Corinthians 8:2–3 LSB) If anyone thinks that he has known anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; 3 **but if anyone loves God, he has been known by Him.**
  - (Matthew 7:23 ESV) And then will I declare to them, "**I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."
- e. **Loving God and knowing him in this way leaves absolutely no room for fear in our lives.**
  - (Romans 8:31 LSB) What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**
  - (Romans 8:15 LSB) **For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again,** but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!"
- f. **Fear is tossed (cast out) because fear involves punishment and we now *know* that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.**
  - (Romans 8:1 LSB) Therefore there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**