



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1 JOHN 4:7-21

LESSON: AFFECTION FOR THOSE IN CHRIST—

June 29, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. “Beloved” meaning friends, Test the spirit to see whether it is of God. Why? Because there were many false prophets that have gone out into the world teaching, and telling the people of God another message. Many of them are speaking from an evil spirit and not of God’s Spirit. You have to read the Word for yourself!

4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: — To test the Spirit of God, the one speaking that confesses that Jesus Christ, God’s Son is come in the flesh is of God. If so, then the message is from God.¹ The false prophets may well have believed that Christ came from God, probably said that Jesus was not the Christ, but just a prophet.

4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Now, there are some that confess that Jesus did not come in the flesh. They are not of God, for that spirit is of the antichrist. The spirit of the “Antichrist” (the false-christ), that was heard of; is coming, and his attitude of enmity against the true Christ is already now in the world.

4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. We; little children (believers; dear ones) are of God; we belong to God! And He has already won the fight, and given us the victory, making us overcomers. Jesus is the greater one residing in us, than he, the evil one (false prophets, the devil, and the Antichrist) that’s in this world!

4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. These false prophets are of the world, therefore, they speak about things of the world, and are those who belong to this world who listens to them. They have an enemy speaking through them.

4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. Again, we are of and belong to God. And since we belong to God, those who hear us; listen to us and know God. However, if whoever does not belong to God won’t listen to us to hear God’s message. This is how we know the Spirit of truth, he lives within them, and this is how we know the false spirits (the spirit of error); something they said just wasn’t right, and felt the unction of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON:

I. 1JOHN 4:7-12

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/1john-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. "**Beloved**" is how John starts many of his passages. He's telling the people of Ephesus that they are much loved. He does not want them to forget that! There were so many wrong ideas he wanted to correct. He wanted them to know the truth as he calls them "*dearly loved friends*." Everyone believes love is important, but we usually think of it as a feeling, but, in reality, love is a choice and an action. Loving one another proves seven things:

1. that we are born of God and know God (4:7-8).

4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. The nature and character of God is Love. So, if we can't love, we don't know God's nature and character. It's Him living in us causing us to know Him!

4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. The words "In this" refers to God's love found us; was manifested, for He sent... Loving one another proves...

2. that we see God's love, because He revealed His love by sending His only begotten Son showing us how to love one another (4:9-11).

- God saved mankind by giving us a Savior, His Son to die for the world.
- Therefore, we experience life now, and eternally when we live our lives through Him, and He through us. "He is the Way the Truth, and the Life!"

4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. John says, In this act we see what real love is: it is not our love for God but His love for us when he sent his Son to satisfy His anger against our sins. His Son sacrifices His life and died; and takes our place for our sins.

4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. This love ought to be reciprocated (by us responding to God's action). We ought to show His love to one another because what He did was unconditional. Because He first loved us, even while we were yet sinners, we can do the same by loving another.

4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. —Loving one another proves...

3. that God's Spirit dwells within us is growing stronger as we love one another (4:12-13).

- **We cannot see God, because He is Spirit; "No man hath seen God at any time..." Jh.1:18.**
²**What we can see is His effect. We cannot see the wind, but we can see what it can do. We cannot see electricity, but we can see the effect it produces. The effect of God is love.**
- God is only known by Love, and only by His Spirit who dwells within the believers. Therefore, when a person honors God's Son by believing, God takes that person and puts His Spirit into the person, thereby maturing His love more and more in us.

II. 1 JOHN 4:13-16

4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/love-is-an-action/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Spirit. How do we know that we dwell in God and He in us? – We know by the power of the Holy Spirit whom the Father has given us. The Spirit bears witness within our spirit by His continuous relationship and we continuing to trust and obey God's Word.

4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. God's love is so committed that we today know and testify by His Spirit. —Loving one another proves...

4. that the apostles' testimony and confessions are true (4:14-16), for the apostles have seen and testified that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. God's love for us was proven by the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus.

4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. Again, by the Father sending His Son to be the Savior of the world, whoever makes this confession, God dwells in him and he in God. Therefore, our confession brings the great promise.

4:16a And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. This all builds up to the fact that we have a great confession: known to us (by the Holy Spirit) and believed (by faith) the love God has in regard toward us.

4:16b God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Dwelling in God, who is Love will surely produce love in us. Three points to stress:

1. God is love.
2. Believers must love.
3. If we dwell in love, we dwell in God, and God dwells in us. God is joined to us, and we to Him.

III. 1 JOHN 4:17-21

4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:—because as he is, so are we in this world. —Loving one another proves...

5. that God perfects our love, giving us boldness in the Day of Judgment (4:17).

A Day of Judgment is coming when all persons will be brought before the great Judge Himself. But note the most wonderful thing: we can be delivered from judgment. How? – By living a life of love. Perfect love is the love that has been perfected in us by God, to love others. If we allow love to live itself out through us, then we will have boldness in the Day of Judgment. Such love casts out fear, giving boldness in the Day of Judgment. The more we love, the more we grow; the more we grow, the more we become perfected in love. And that will lead to: the more assurance and boldness we will have about the future judgment. God will give us the assurance that we shall not be judged, but on the contrary, we shall be rewarded.

4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. —Loving one another proves...

6. that God delivers us from fear (4:18).
 - If we really love someone, there is no need to fear him.
 - Perfect love casts out fear. When love grows, fear can't stay. The two are incompatible. Therefore, growing love fulfills perfect (complete) love.
 - Because fear has torment, it shows that it thinks about and expects punishment or suffering



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

or loss. A person feels that something is going to happen to him. Fear causes anxiety, dread, alarm, fright, panic, and terror.

- Fear means that a person is not perfected in love.
 - The person is not fully grasping the love and care of God for him.
 - The person is not loving other people like he should; not growing more and more in love. And fear can have our eyes upon self, not upon God.

We can resolve our fears first by focusing on His immeasurable love for us, then we can allow Him to love others through us.

4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. Loving one another proves...

7. that we love God (4:19-21). How do we know that we love God? There are three ways:

1. Because He first loved us. When Adam sinned, He loved us; when we were lost in sin, He loved us; before Jesus even went to the cross, He loved us, when Jesus was nailed to the cross, He love us; when Jesus was beaten, He loved us; when Jesus died on the cross He loved us; and when God resurrected Jesus, surely He loved us, which meant we were able to be resurrected also. He has given us another chance.

Hallelujah! From the beginning of the foundation of the world God so loved us!

4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?– We love God...

2. Because we do not hate our brother we see. If we love God, it's impossible to hold feelings against our brother. Why? – Because the Word says, 4:16b "*God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*" Therefore, if we have the nature of God in us, then we will also love our brother. John says we can't pretend to love our brother and still hate him, for love has to be practiced, especially toward our brother.

4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. We love God...

3. Because we keep His commandment. What is His commandment? If we love God we are to love our brothers also. People say that they love God, well then the stipulation is that they will also have to love their brother too. *Mark 12:30-31 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."* This means our neighbor is our brother.

SUMMARY:

Beloved" is how John starts many of his passages. He's telling the people of Ephesus that they are much loved. He does not want them to forget that! Let's love one another because love comes from God. Everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. Not loving means we don't know God. The manifestation of God's love toward us is seen by God sending His only Begotten Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this act we see what real love is: it is not our love for God, but His

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

love for us when He sent His Son to satisfy His anger against our sins. His Son sacrifices His life and died; and took the place for our sins. We ought to show His love to one another because of what He did was unconditional. Because He first loved us, even while we were sinners, we can do the same to another. Though no one has ever seen God at any time, if we love each other, God lives; dwells in us, and by this, His love is complete, and perfected in us (**4:7-12**).

When we become Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit. God's presence in our lives is proof that we really belong to Him, and He gives us the power to love. We know and testify by God's Spirit that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world, for He shows us how to love one another. Our confession allows Jesus to dwell in us, and we in Him; believing at all times that God loves us. We know the love that God has for us by Him going to an old rugged cross to die in our place. And we believe it. God is love and believers must love, if we want to see Him! If we dwell in love, we dwell in God, and He dwells in us! (**4:13-16**).

"As we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect and complete; so we will not be ashamed or embarrassed at the Day of Judgment, but can face Him with confidence and joy, because He loves us and we love him too." Fear is not an option, for perfect love casts out fear. Fear causes torment when it's not made perfect in love. God loved us first. If we see our brother everyday, and yet hate him, but say we love God whom we haven't seen, we are liars, pretending to love our brother while hating him. As we are commanded, love your brother as you love God. it will show you that love has to be practiced, especially toward our brother (**4:17-21**)