

Part 7 study of 1 John 4:7-21

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get comfortable, get your coffee or tea or water and settle in for our talk.

I hope everyone is doing well.

Today we are continuing our study of 1st John. 1 John 4:7-21 can be summarized as Victorious Life

Remember before we start reading the bible we need to remember the background of 1st John. The author is the Apostle John. Most scholars believe it was written in AD85-90. The main themes in 1st John are,

- True Teaching, True Living and True Loving
- Encourage Christian who are being persecuted (who/why it was written to and what was happening in History). Christians were being persecuted by the Romans, by the Jews and pretty much very other group.
- We can Trust “who Jesus is”
- Jesus is both man & God - ignore false teachers who deny
- Correct the wrong ideas about Jesus
- Correct idea about what is good and evil which lead to the lack of morality in the church

Today we are going to study 1st John 4:7-21.

Let's Read 1 John 4:7-11. I'm reading from the NKJV. *⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

According to this passage, what's the connection between God and love? Verse 7 says Love is God and verse 8 says God is love. So true loving comes from God and we can only truly love if God is in us.

What is love – an emotion, an action, a commitment, something else entirely? In our modern world we confuse love and lust. The love in the bible is not the emotional feeling, its an intentional action. We love someone when we treat them kindly. We love them when we serve them. PUNLA Christian Ministries is all about loving the people God has asked us to. Love is an action word.

Let's Read 1 John 4:12-19. *¹²No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.*

What does John mean when he argues that there is no fear in love? John is stressing to us that when we are following Christ we have peace. The troubles of this world should not distract us from our job which is to love one another. Fear here is really more like worry.

Can a person truly receive love without somehow passing it on? How? Why? Well of course. But the more love someone gets the more they tend to show others. This is the same with God. God helps us grow in love after we become His children.

Let's Read 1 John 4:20-21. *²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

What's a Christian to do when we feel, I'm all out of love... I've got nothing left to give? We need to remember where true love come from, God. How did God show is true love for us, well by sending Jesus to save us from death? John 3:16 "for God so loved the world that He gave is only begotten son." We have to remind ourselves Love is an action word not an emotion. We we show God to others by loving them the way Jesus loves us.

Now I want you to think about this next question for a few seconds. Do you think it's easier to love God or other people? Why?.... The real question is are we truly loving God?

All too often, we embrace a mushy, overly sentimental view of love. We see love as lots of hugging. Glossing over hurtful actions and avoiding unpleasant realities. To be sure, God's love is accepting and forgiving, but it is also stern. Therein lies the great mystery. God loves us just as we are, but he also loves us too much to leave us as we are.

God's love is transforming. It is redemptive. Which means it is forever disruptive and uncomfortable. As we work on Loving others with God's love, remember these truths. God's love is pure and always governed by truth. If we are to love like God, sometimes our love for others will have to be tough and uncompromising.

Discernment is critical to learning to love as God loves. I recommend reading the following passages about discernment in your personal study this week,

- Deuteronomy 7:8, 10:12
- Psalm 146:8
- Jeremiah 21:3
- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- Ephesians 2:4-5
- Jude 21

Next week we will be studying 1 John 5:1-5 Eternal Life Now

Let's Pray.

Father God, thank you for loving us even though we are not worthy of your love. Help us to show others love like you have shown us, such that the world can see You in our actions and words.

Help us to remember love is an action word not an emotion. Give us the strength to love even those we don't like. Give us the words when we need them to comfort others. Give us the courage to do things for others that will show your love for them.

Use me Lord for your will, to reach others with your love.

I pray this in your name, Jesus Amen

Thank you for joining me for Students at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback.

Until next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.