

## 1 John 3:24b-4:21

<sup>3:24b</sup> And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

<sup>4:1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

### *This is not that.*

We know from Acts that there were lots of counterfeit prophets and workers of magic (“signs and wonders”) about. People then, as now, are apt to be wowed by such things as well as the Gnostics denial of the incarnation.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (NRSV)** <sup>1</sup> If prophets or those who divine by dreams appear among you and promise you omens or portents, <sup>2</sup> and the omens or the portents declared by them take place, and they say, “Let us follow other gods” (whom you have not known) “and let us serve them,” <sup>3</sup> you must not heed the words of those prophets or those who divine by dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you indeed love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. <sup>4</sup> The LORD your God you shall follow, him alone you shall fear, his commandments you shall keep, his voice you shall obey, him you shall serve, and to him you shall hold fast.

**John 10:3-4 (NIV)** He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

“Love is from God” – We sing the doxology, so we know from whom all blessings flow. The only reason that we know love is that it “flowed” from God.

**Philippians 2:13 (NRSV)** ...for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*Hilasmus* – word used in the Septuagint for “sin offering.” We know that God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all, but that if we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. Solution: the just judge calls it like it is, and then pays our fine.

**Romans 3:26 (NIV)** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

v11 – Loving one another is the ultimate apologetic (Schaeffer). **John 13:34-35 (NIV)** <sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

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<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The depth psychologists note that the two great fears from infancy on are being overwhelmed and abandonment.

**Re: v13 - Galatians 4:6-7 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)** And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**Re: v18** – Love and fear are mutually exclusive. Oil and water. The more love you allow in the less room there is for fear. Some of us still hold an imperfect paradigm of the love of the Father; we still might be waiting for the other foot to fall.

**Colossians 3:3-4 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Could you possibly think that Jesus cringes in fear before the Father?

**Re: v20 – Psalms 85:10 (NIV)** Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

(Jackman, p95) "belief and behavior are always harnessed together."