

In Depth - "Fear - Part Three"

"Fear and Perfect Love"

Review of Week One on Fear:

- There is a direct correlation between our fear and how big we see or believe God is.
 - The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27: 1)

Review of Week Two on Fear:

- What spirit or identity do we operate out of – a spirit of slavery or a spirit of adoption?
 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8: 15)

Week Three on Fear:

- Today we not only need to remember how big God is, but we need to remember his character.
 - Verses 8 and 16 both state, "God is love."

Next Week on Fear:

- for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Tim. 1: 7)

I John 4: 7 - 21

7 **Beloved**, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only 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 ever seen God; 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 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 **So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is **love perfected** with us, so that we may have confidence for 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**. For **fear** has to do with punishment, and whoever **fears** has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he 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: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Character of God

- God is love

How that love was expressed

- In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
- he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins
- he has given us of his Spirit
- the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world
- he first loved us

The impact on us

- let us love one another
- whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another
- if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.
- whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- we may have confidence for the day of judgment
- There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.
- We love because he first loved us.

Questions to ponder:

Is this passage addressed to you? If so, what in the world does that mean?

- Beloved (in Greek agapetos):
 - beloved, esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love
 - And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1: 11)

Who is God?

What is the connection between love and fear?

What does fear involve? What are the ripple effects of that?

What is the connection between the love of God and our ability to love?

What is the importance of perfect, or perfected love?

Where does perfect love come from?

Based on this passage, what is it that we have to believe? Why is that so important?

What is coming up next week?

Text for September 16:

- 2 Timothy 1: 3 - 7