

1 John 4-Part 4

5. (19) The reason for our love to Jesus.

We love Him because He first loved us.

- a. **We love Him:** In this great statement, John begins by declaring the heart of every true follower of Jesus Christ. Simply and boldly put, _____.
- i. It is something that every Christian should be unafraid to proclaim: “I love Him; I love Jesus.” Can you say that? Are you embarrassed to say it? Can you say, “I love Jesus”?
- b. **He first loved us:** This verse not only declares our love for Jesus, it also tells us *when* He loved us. Some people imagine that Jesus loved us because He knew we would love Him and come to faith in Him. But He loved us _____, and even before the worlds were created, when our only existence was in the mind and heart of God, Jesus loved us.
- c. **We love Him because He first loved us:** This verse tells us *where* our love for Jesus comes from. It comes from _____. Our love for God is always in *response* to His love for us; He initiates, and we respond. We never have to draw God to us; instead, He draws us to Himself.
- d. **We love Him because He first loved us:** This verse tells us *why* we love Jesus, and *how* we can love Him _____.

6. (20-21) The commandment to love.

If 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? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

- a. **If someone says, “I love God”:** It is often easier for someone to proclaim his love for God, because that regards a _____ with an invisible God. But John rightly insists that our claim of loving God is false if we do not also love our brother, and that this love must be seen.
- i. One may be a spiritual dwarf because one lacks love. One may know the Word, may never miss a service, may pray fervently, and may demonstrate gifts of the Spirit. Yet in it all, that one may be like Cain, offering to God the fruit of his hands and not the fruit of the _____.
- b. **If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar:** By this crucial measure, Jesus said the world could measure our status as _____ by the measure of our love for one another. *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*([John 13:35](#)).
- c. **And this commandment we have from Him:** We have a _____ to love. Though love springs forth from our abiding relationship with God and comes from our being born of Him, there is also an essential aspect of our *will* involved. We are therefore *commanded* to love our brother in Christ.
- i. Being born of God and abiding with Him give us the ability to love; but it is a _____ of our will to draw upon that resource and give it out to others. Therefore we are given a command to love, **that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.**

d. **He who loves God must love his brother also:** We can also *learn* how to love God by _____ . One might say, “I want to love God more; I want to grow in my love for Him. But how can I love a God who is invisible?” God would say to us, “Learn to love Me, Whom you cannot see, by loving My children, whom you can see.”

i. Jesus said in [Matthew 5:23-24](#), *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.* God is more pleased when you get it right with your brother, than if you bring Him a sacrifice of praise or resources.