

1Jo 4:15-19; 15 "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, (complete) that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear (*alarm or terror*) in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. (*penal infliction, judgment, or torment*) He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us."

At the beginning of this chapter, John is warning; there are many antichrists already in the world. The antichrists do not confess that Jesus is the Christ. In this text, John is defining those who are Christians, because they "***confess that Jesus is the Son of God.***" Thus, we have evidence in our lives, which should bolster our confidence, in the love of Christ and the hope of our eternal life in Christ. John tells us; we believe in the love of God toward us.

This love of God to, and in, us is a twofold work. First, the love we have toward God because of what we see in: ***1Jo 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."*** After all, God loved us enough to send his only begotten Son, to save us from the death of sin, and rescue us from the eternal lake of fire. Seeing that this love of God to us was first toward us; thus, we should exemplify to others, that the love of God is in us, by loving others when they don't love us.

Second, because we love one another in Christ, seen in: ***1Jo 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."*** When we come to the knowledge that God loves us, and his love is in us, we understand that we have been given knowledge of God.

Both types of this love of God was exemplified to us by Christ Jesus when he was incarnate. Jesus demonstrated his love to many, by fulfilling the needs of God's people, as he ministered to them. Jesus went about; healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, causing the deaf to hear, raising dead people to life again, and many other examples. Jesus exemplified compassion upon God's people, and even wept over those he knew would not believe.

We are commanded to exemplify these same characteristics of the love of God as seen in: ***Mt 25:34-40; 34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*** This text is where; Jesus was speaking of the end of time, when the sheep and goats will be separated, and the sheep shall hear these words. The goats shall hear the opposite and go into the eternal lake of fire.

1Jo 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." How is it that we can have this confidence? He tells us in **1Jo 4:17 "because as he is, so are we in this world."** Remember, the context is the day of judgement, in this world. When Jesus hung on the cross and bore our sin debt, we were judged as having been made righteous, by the work of Christ. When we understand this concept, we can bear one another's burdens, and forgive one another in love. Thus, the love of God is perfected (complete) in us to the point that we may have boldness (*assurance or confidence*) in the day of judgment.

"as he is, in this world." This text places us in context in this world. How was Jesus when he was in the world? He was here in a body of flesh, just as we are in a here in a body of flesh. The difference in his flesh and ours is that his was without sin.

What separates mankind from the creatures of the earth? **Ge 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."** We are living souls if we are born again. What happened when man fell in sin? He did not die a natural death, but his soul, which heretofore was alive and pure, died in sin and lost the communion, and fellowship, that man had with God. What happens to you when you are born again? That soul, which is dead in sin, is regenerated and filled with the Holy Spirit. Sin is removed, and man's soul is made alive in Christ, and we are brought back into communion and fellowship with God. As Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, so we are **"as he is,"** because we are anointed with the Holy Spirit.

We are **"as he is, in this world"** because; Jesus knew he would resurrect from the dead, and arise to the eternal heaven, to his rightful place on the throne of God. Likewise, we know; we shall be resurrected from the dead, and carried to our rightful place in the eternal heaven, which Christ has gone to prepare. In other words, at the end of time, when we are resurrected from the dead, or changed in a moment, we shall stand before God the Father in perfect sinlessness, fully justified by the finished work of Christ. As we consider this, we understand how **"Herein is our love made perfect, we may have boldness in the day of judgment."**

This leads us to understand **1Jo 4:18 "There is no fear (alarm or terror) in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. (penal infliction, judgment, or torment) He that feareth is not made perfect in love."** As we look at this verse; we understand that in the day of judgment, we will not stand before God filled with alarm or terror, fearing that we shall be cast into the eternal lake of fire, and banished from the presence of God forever. In the day of judgment, we shall, in our resurrected, incorruptible, and immortal bodies, stand before God, and we shall be as Christ was, here in time, when he resurrected from the dead and ascended back to his rightful place on the throne of God, we shall know that we have a place in the eternal heaven and have no reason to fear or doubt.

When Jesus was incarnate, he knew that he was King and High Priest to God, and he acted faithfully in both offices here in this world. We have the same knowledge given us in the scripture in: **Re 1:4-6; 4 "John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.**

Amen." Having been born-again; we know we are part of the royal family. Wherefore, we ought to live like we are royal seed, bearing the image of our King, and High Priest, in all that we say and do.

Thanks, and praise, to God the Father for the finished work of Christ, who has already presented us, to God the Father, as sinless, pure, and holy. Praise the Lord for that glorious hope, that not only in this world are we **"as he is, so are we in this world,"** but, we believe, we shall be like Christ in a resurrected, sinless, immortal, incorruptible, body; and we shall dwell forever in the place he has gone to prepare for us, seen in: **1Jo 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."** Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!