

How the Invisible God is Known

1 John 4:12-16a

Main Point: God is known and experienced as believers love one another.

- I. God is invisible, but as we love one another we experience His presence (1 John 4:12-13).
 - A. God is Invisible: No one has ever seen God (4:12a; Exodus 33:20; 1 Timothy 6:16).
 - B. Abiding Love: When we love one another the invisible God is experienced by the church (4:12b).
 - “If...Abiding” – Sometimes God’s love abides in us and sometimes it doesn’t!
 - “In us” = “among us” – This is a plural sense not singular. I.e. God becomes known and visible when a *church body* loves on another, not just when an *individual* shows love.
 - C. Completed Love: When we love one another, God’s love finally accomplishes its real goal (4:12c).
 - God’s love accomplishes its full purpose not when we are saved, but when we love one another.
 - D. Known Love: As we love one another we experience Christ’s presence through the Holy Spirit (4:13).

- II. God is invisible, but as we love one another the world sees God’s saving love for them (1 John 4:14-16a).
 - A. A confirmation of the Gospel – When a church family loves one another, it confirms to the world that God really can save them through Jesus Christ (4:14; John 13:35).
 - B. A confirmation of the doctrine of Christ – When a church proclaims Jesus as God’s Son while loving one another, they confirm who Jesus is (4:15).
 - C. Conclusion – A church that loves right and believes right is confident of God’s saving love for them (4:16a).