

Confident in God's Love

1 John 4:16b – 19

- I. God is love: Since love is God's nature, we will draw close to Him as we abide in His love (1 John 4:16b).
- II. Love gives us confidence with God: Our relationship with God can give us confidence about meeting Him (1 John 4:17-18).
 - A. As we grow close to God through love, we can be confident about His future evaluation of our life because we have pursued being like Him while on earth (4:17).

For what will believers be judged?

- As believers **we will not be judged for our sin** to determine heaven or hell (John 3:18; 5:24; Romans 8:1, 31-34).
- As believers **we will be accountable to God for our works** when we appear at the "Judgment Seat of Christ" (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11).
- As believers **our works** will be judged to determine **our eternal rewards** (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

- B. Mutual love eliminates fear in our relationship with God now and as we anticipate seeing Him as Judge (4:18).

Am I Afraid of God or Loving God?

- Am I afraid of God?
- Is my fear because of sin in my life?
- Is my fear because of authority figures in my past that I need to get over?
- Do I show my love for God by pursuing a holy, pure life?
- Do I take time regularly to express love to God in private prayer, Bible reading and worship?
- Do I realize that God is already showing me grace and that even His discipline comes from His love?
- Do I live close enough to God that I look forward to meeting Him at the Judgment Seat to receive His reward and approval?

- III. God is the Initiator of Love: We can actually love God our Judge because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)!