

Abide in Love

Pastor's Desk – May 19, 2019



1 John 4:13;16 "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit...God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

As human beings, we inherit many characteristic traits from our parents. The moment we are born again and declare that Jesus is Lord, we instantly inherit distinctive character traits from our heavenly Father. The strongest quality out of them all: LOVE!

The apostle who received love (John) came to understand love as the defining characteristic of those in the family of God. Here in 1st John, he resumes the subject of love for one's brother. He emphasizes that love is a duty, consistent with the character of God. As has been mentioned previously, John is not thinking of the

love that is common to all men but of that love to the children of God which has been implanted in those who have been born again.

And when we love one another, His love is perfected in us. This means that God's love for us has achieved its goal. We are never intended to be terminals of God's blessings, but channels only. God's love is given to us, not that we might reserve it for ourselves, but that it might be poured out through us to others. When we love one another in this way, that is proof that we are in Him, and He in us, and that we are partakers of His Spirit. We should pause to marvel at His dwelling in us and our dwelling in Him.

No closer relationship is possible than for a person to abide in God and to have God abiding in him. We might compare it, in the natural realm, to poker in the fire, a sponge in the water, or a balloon in the air. In each case, the object is in an element, and the element is in the object.

May we consistently abide in the presence and love of the Almighty One, being patient with one another, showing Godly love in all our conduct, as testimony that we abide in Him, and He in us.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy F. Santos