

1 John 4:7-4:21 (God is love: Part 2 – Love one another)

7 **Beloved**, let us **love** one another, for **love** is from God, and whoever **loves** has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not **love** does not know God, because God is **love**. 9 In this the **love** of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is **love**, not that we have **loved** God but that he **loved** us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 **Beloved**, if God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we **love** one another, God abides in us and his **love** is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the **love** that God has for us. God is **love**, and whoever abides in **love** abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is **love** perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgement, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in **love**, but perfect **love** casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in **love**. 19 We **love** because he first **loved** us. 20 If anyone says, "I **love** God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not **love** his brother whom he has seen cannot **love** God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever **loves** God must also **love** his brother.

*Three-legged stool of Christian confidence: moral test, **relational test (v7-8, 16, 20)** and doctrinal test (v13-15).*

We should love one another...

Because God is love:

- Those who love have been born of the God who is love (v7)
- Those who love know the God who is love (v7-8)

Because of God's love demonstrated in the past:

- We now know what love is (v9)
- We ought to love like God loved (v9-11)

Because of God's love at work in the present:

- God abides in us when we:
 - Confess by the Spirit that Jesus is the Son of God (v13-15)
 - Love one another (v12, 16)
- The love of God is perfected in us when we love one another (v12, 17-18)
 - Perfect love (v12, 17)?
 - Perfect love casts out fear (v17-18)
- We cannot see God, but we can see our brother and sister (v12, 19-21)

So what?