

THE LOVE THAT CONQUERS FEAR

1 John 4:14-21 Jeff Schreve

There is no fear in love [dread does not exist]. But perfect (complete, full-grown) love drives out fear, because fear involves [the expectation of divine] punishment, so the one who is afraid [of God's judgment] is not perfected in love [has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God's love].

1 John 4:18 AMP

Have you been perfected in God's conquering love?

1. The proof of God's love is the cross of Christ.

And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14

A. Jesus died for all people.

... and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. 1 John 2:2

B. Jesus' payment takes effect when you believe in Him.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4:15-16

2. The power of God's love is deliverance from our fears.

By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 1 John 4:17-18

A. No true Christian needs to fear the condemnation of God.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." John 5:24

B. No true Christian needs to fear the punishment of God.

C. No true Christian needs to fear the present/future with God.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

3. The persistence of God's love is His enduring faithfulness.

We love, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:33-39

Will you believe His love, receive His love, and be confident in His love?