

No Fear!

I John 4:12,17,18

Introductory Questions:

A. What's the backdrop for this passage?

B. What are you most afraid of?

I. A Maturing Love is the Result of God's Indwelling (v.12)

- God is unseen (Exodus 33:20, John 1:18, John 5:37), but can be experienced.
- There is a double exchanging in John's thinking:
 - as we love, our experience of God's indwelling is increased
 - As God dwells in us, his love is perfected

“The best demonstration of God comes not from argument but from a life of love.”

“God’s love for us is perfected only when it is reproduced in us or among us.”

II. A Maturing Love Gives us Boldness (v.17)

- The result of the maturing love is that we have boldness on the day of judgment. What keeps us from having boldness on judgment day?
- “as he is, so are we in this world.” We currently have a relationship with God in this world that is similar to that between Christ and the Father.

Jesus is the “Son of God,” heir of God (Romans 8:17); object of divine favor

III. A Maturing Love Drives Out Fear (v.18)

- As a love for God’s grows our fear of God goes. “Love shows fear the door.” How has your view of God changed over the years?
- Fear has to do with punishment. Punishment is no longer a reality for God’s people!