

## Seeing the God of Love (3:24–4:6)

Water of Life

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### REVIEW OF 1 JOHN 2:29-3:10a

Only believers do righteousness, so believers manifest who they are when they do righteousness. Unbelievers manifest who they are, when they do not do righteousness (which is all that they can do). So, what do we say about believers when they are not doing righteousness?

### REVIEW OF 1 JOHN 3:10b-15

Love for the fellow-believers is a key manifestation of who we are as children of God.

### REVIEW OF 1 JOHN 3:16-23

Jesus laying down His mortal life (*psuchē*) for us is the very definition of love, so believers ought to lay down their mortal lives (*psuchē*) for fellow-believers (3:16)

By this [love expressing truth by actions] assures us that we [abide] in truth (3:19a)  
John is not saying that the apostles knew they were regenerate by their actions.

John is saying that he saw how much God's truth had changed him (cf. page 1);  
but John would not say that he had arrived.

We shall persuade (*peithō*) our hearts before Him that (if our heart condemns us) God is greater than our heart and knows all things (3:19b-20)

Clearly, John does not want any engaging in destructive self-critique.  
The truth of 1 John 1:9–2:2 is the antidote.

We have confidence toward God, when our heart does not condemn us [as a result of (1) 3:19a or (2) the persuasion of 3:19b-20] (3:21)

We receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments [especially to love one another] and do what pleases Him (3:22)

John has emphasized that love is an expression of God's truth in our action (3:18).  
Aiming to please Him says Thank You to Him.

We are to believe His name (that Jesus, the Christ, God's Son) [answers prayer] and we are to love one another, as He commanded (3:23)

**NEW MATERIAL: 1 John 3:24–4:6**

**Believers who obey His commandment to love one another enjoy mutual abiding (fellowship), which the Spirit enables abiding believers to recognize (3:24)**

**[However] believers must not believe every spirit, but are to test the spirits [who spoke through prophets] because many false prophets went out into the world (4:1)**

The spirits mentioned here would speak through prophets: Thus, one tested spirits by testing the words of a prophet (through whom a spirit spoke)

This parallels Matthew 12:33-37 (Cf. Matthew 7:16-20):

Testing words, not works, to see if one were a false \_\_\_\_\_, not a false \_\_\_\_\_

Sidenote: Are there prophets today?

**Every spirit that is from God confesses that Jesus is the Christ; any spirit that does not confess that He is the Christ is not from God, but is of the coming Antichrist (4:2-3)**

This is more specific than “would not deny that Jesus is the Christ”

Is this a statement of orthodoxy regarding Christ or of soteriology (salvation)?

**The readers [mature church leaders] have overcome these false spirits, because He [the Holy Spirit] who is in them is greater than the one [Satan] who is in the world (4:4)**

**They [the spirits and the prophets through whom the spirits speak] are of the world, so they speak of the world and the world hears them [4:5]**

**We [the apostles] are of God, he who knows God [the believer fellowshiping with God] hears us [the apostles]; he who is not of God does not hear us [apostles] [4:6a]**

**Based upon whether a person hears us [the apostles], we [the apostles] can discern the spirit of truth from the spirit of error [4:6b]**

**We ought to love one another, because love originates from God, and because the only ones who love are believers who know God [abide] (4:7)**

**The unloving [believer] does not know God [e.g., abide in Him] (4:8)**

**God sending His one-and-only Son into the world that we might through Him live manifested God's love toward us (4:10)**

The word is *monogenēs* (*unique*: Psalm 22:20; 35:17) not *monogennēs* (*only begotten*). John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18, etc. use *monogenēs*. *Monogennēs* is not used in the Bible.

**We ought to love one another, because of how God loved us (4:11)**

Cf. John 3:16, corrected translation

**The invisible God abides in believers who love one another, maturing our love (4:12)**

Cf. 4:17-19

**We know that we abide in Him & He in us because He has given us OF His Spirit (4:13)**

Cf. 3:24

What does it mean that He has given us of His Spirit?

**We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world (4:14)**

Cf. the prologue to 1 John

**God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God (4:15)**

Connection with John's purpose statement (John 20:30-31)

**We have known and believed the love that God among us (4:16a)**

**God is love, so he who abides in love abides in Him and God in him (4:16b)**

Cf. 3:24

**Love has been matured among us in this: that we may have boldness at the bēma, because as He is, so are we in this world (4:17)**

**There is no fear in love; but matured love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment (4:18a)**

**The one who fears has not been matured in love (4:18b)**

Cf. 3:19-23

**We love Him, because He first loved us (4:19)**

**CONCLUSION**