

First John 4:11-14

Further explanation of what it means to be residing in God

- 1) The “if... then ...”—4:11 ¹¹ *Beloved^{pl}*,
 - a) Motivation—*if* [εἰ, 1st class condition] *God loved* [aor. act. ind. ἀγαπάω] *us* How? *in this way* [οὕτω], (cf. 4:9-10)
 - i) All Christian love must act like God’s love
 - b) Obligation—(then) **we** (emphatic) *also/too are obligated* [pres. act. ind. ὀφείλω] *to be loving* [pres. act. inf. ἀγαπάω] *one another*. (cf. 3:16-18)

- 2) Assertion—4:12a ¹² *No one has closely observed* [pf. dep. ind. θεάομαι] *God at anytime*.
 - a) People have always needed some kind of “filter” to see God (cf. John 1:18).
 - b) People once saw God when Jesus lived on the earth. Now, however, we see God when His Spirit-indwelt believers love one another.

- 3) Witness # 1—4:12b *If* [ἐάν, 3rd class condition] *we love* [pres. act. subj. ἀγαπάω] *one another*,
 - a) Result # 1; permanent relationship—*God is residing* [pres. act. ind. μένω] *in us*
 - b) Result # 2; completed purpose—*and His love* [ἀγάπη] *is being perfected* [pf. pass. ptc. τελειόω] (brought to its intended outcome) *in us*.
 - i) Our love is in reality His love.

- 4) Witness # 2—4:13 ¹³ *By this* [ἐν οὗτοϛ] *we know* [pres. act. ind. γινώσκω] *that* [ὅτι] ...
 - a) The CONTENT of what we know—*we are residing* [pres. act. ind. μένω] *in Him* (the Father) *and He* (the Father, is residing) *in us*,
 - b) How do we know? *because* [ὅτι] *He has given* [pf. act. ind. δίδωμι] *us of* [ἐκ] *His Spirit*.
 - i) The Spirit produces this fruit of love in us (cf. Galatians 5:22).
 - ii) The fact that we possess the Spirit indicates that the believer is in Him (cf. 3:24), thus giving us assurance of salvation.

- 5) Witness # 3—4:14 ¹⁴ *And we* (emphatic) ...
 - a) When?
 - i) In the PAST—*have closely observed* [pf. dep. ind. θεάομαι]
 - ii) In the PRESENT—*and are testifying* [pres. act. ind. μαρτυρέω] ...
 - b) What? *that* [ὅτι] *the Father has sent* [pf. act. ind. ἀποστέλλω] *the Son as/to be Savior of the world*.
 - i) Savior
 - (1) Refers to the **Father**—Luke 1:47; 1st Timothy 1:1; 2:3; 4:10; Titus 1:3; 2:10; 3:4; Jude 1:25
 - (2) Refers to the **Son**—Luke 2:11; John 4:42; Acts 5:31; 13:23; Ephesians 5:23; Philippians 3:20; 2nd Timothy 1:10; Titus 1:4; 2:13; 3:6; 2nd Peter 1:1, 11; 2:20; 3:2, 18; 1st John 4:14
 - ii) When we love one another in the congregation deliberately and give sacrificially, we reflect His image more accurately.