



I John 4:1-16

Scripture Memory

I John 1:8

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

The Christian religion is the religion of sinners, of such as have sinned, and in whom sin in some measure still dwells. The Christian life is a life of continued repentance, humiliation for and mortification of sin, of continual faith in, thankfulness for, and love to the Redeemer, and hopeful joyful expectation of a day of glorious redemption, in which the believer shall be fully and finally acquitted, and sin abolished forever.

Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, Volume VI* (Hendrickson Publishers), p. 857.

Sunday School Lesson Notes

Key Thoughts

Love...is a valid test of true Christian faith. Since God is love, and we have claimed a personal relationship with God, we must of necessity reveal His love in how we live...Since “God is love,” Christians ought to love one another. The logic is unanswerable!

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II*, (David C. Cook), p. 515

Men cannot see God, but they can see His love moving [believers] to deeds of helpfulness and kindness.

Warren Wiersbe, p. 519.

Questions to Consider

As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read I John 4:1-16.

1. John's writings provide us with statements that explain the nature of God. In John 4:24 we learn that "God is a Spirit," and I John 1:5 tells us that "God is light." What does I John 4:1-16 (v.16) tell us about God?
2. According to I John 4:7, what action is a natural *result* of having been "born of God?"
3. Because of God's indwelling presence, believers are able to demonstrate Biblical love. According to I John 4:9, how did God demonstrate ("manifested," make visible) His redeeming love to us?

I John 4:9 and 10 reveal two purposes of God's visible demonstration of His love. What are they?

4. I John 4:11a reemphasizes that God has loved us. According to 11b, what is the resulting *obligation* for believers?
5. "No man hath seen God at any time." I John 4:12a. With this short statement, John sets the stage for presenting some exciting truths for believers in the verses that follow. When believers manifest love to one another, what Biblical truth in vv. 12-13 regarding the Holy Spirit do they confirm? (Hint: Read Romans 8:11 and I Corinthians 6:19)

In addition, with help from the quote below, consider the meaning and implications of the end of v. 12 where it states, "and his love is perfected in us."

Warren Wiersbe on p. 518 states: *How, then, does God reveal Himself to the world? He reveals Himself through the lives of His children. Men cannot see God, but they can see us. If we abide in Christ, we will love one another, and our love for one another will reveal God's love to a needy world. God's love will be experienced in us and then will be expressed through us.*

Truth to Ponder

Jesus did not simply preach the love of God; He proved it by giving His life on the cross. He expects His followers to do likewise. If we abide in Christ, we will abide in His love. If we abide in His love, we must share this love with others. Whenever we share this love, it is proof in our own hearts that we are abiding in Christ.

Warren Wiersbe, p. 519.