

I John – Love Perfected

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I John 4:7-21

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

John has narrowed down the essentials to just a couple of things in this letter

He has helped us clear away some misunderstandings and develop awareness when we thought we might have had it all figured out.

*In this series, where have you been called to be humbly aware of your misunderstandings about one of these essentials – Jesus, Obedience, Love?

*How does humility help us develop awareness?

John will bookend our journey with the concept of perfect love

Read and discuss I John 4:12 & 18 (ESV)

12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

*What do these verses say about God? About people?

*Why do people experience fear in love? How have you seen this in your life?

God loves us with a perfect love

Only total acceptance removes the fear in love.

*How do you see this demonstrated in the Lost Son parable (Luke 15:11-32)?

*What does it mean for our hearts to condemn us?

God is fighting for our hearts, not our behavior

Fear has to do with punishment; He has given us the freedom of everlasting grace.

*Have you experienced a time you've felt God fight for your heart and not behavior?

*What would it look like to break free from the belief that love requires human merit?

When his great love is displayed in us, there is no greater visual of God alive and at work

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

*How have you seen this kind of love make an invisible God visible?

*What broken pursuit for love and acceptance do you find yourself in?

*How can we encourage honesty and acceptance with one another?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [The Return](#) by Rembrandt

Song for reflection [Perfect Love](#) by Rivers & Robots