

Love, Honor, and Obey

1 John 4:17-5:5

Big Idea for the Series: Ten weeks of biblical truth designed to show the evidence the Apostle John points to revealing true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life.”

The Bottom Line: Perfect love brings victorious living.

Review:

In this 10-week series, Be Real, we’re discussing the biblical truth from the Apostle John that points to true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). So many people struggle and lack confident assurance in their faith.

Today, we’re going to dive into this confidence John promises and begin wrapping up this series with practical insight to grow our faith and love for God and one another.

Introduction:

Today’s passage points us to the realization that we cannot love our neighbors or our brothers unless we first love our heavenly Father. In fact, we must strive toward something called, “perfect love.”

But, before you dismiss “perfect love” as unattainable, let’s discuss what everyone struggles with at various stages of life.

Tension:

Have you ever wondered why there are so many times in your spiritual life when you struggle with defeat in your faith?

- You give in to some temptation over and over again!
- Some little thing sets you off, and you fight with your spouse.
- You know you should share your faith, but fear takes over and you remain silent.
- Sally Gossip calls, and you lean into the conversation instead of speaking the truth in love to Sally.

- Instead of being honest, open, and transparent with what's really going on in your life, you act far more spiritual than you really are and pretend to have all the answers. After all, you're the pastor, deacon, board member, counselor, and you've been a Christian for so many years, right?

When you walk away from any one of these, how do you usually feel? Defeated!

Why did you do that - again?

Why didn't you share your faith?

Why did you engage in that conversation about so and so?

Why are you still pretending to be something you're not?

You know better, but you still go there from time to time. You don't want to, but you do.

The good news this morning is God doesn't want you to live in defeat! God's will for your life is victory, glorious victory. God wants you to win in your spiritual life, and today, as the Apostle John begins to close his letter, he begins to wrap things up by telling us how to walk in "Perfect Love."

Truth:

So, let's begin our study this morning by looking at this concept of "Perfect Love."

1 John 4:18-19

There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out fear**... We love because **he first loved us**.

When we hear something like "perfect love," we're tempted to shut down, but the word John is using for perfect is the idea of maturity and completeness, not necessarily perfection. So, is that obtainable? Of course, because **he first loved us**.

Perfect love leads to four things ...

Confidence (1 John 4:17-19)

Honesty (1 John 20-21)

Obedience (1 John 5-1-3)

Victory (1 John 5:4-5)

Conclusion:

What an exciting way to live. As God's love is perfected in you, have confidence toward Him, and do not live in fear. Because fear is cast out, you can be honest, open, and transparent with no need to ever pretend again.

Because fear is gone, your obedience to God is born out of love, not terror, not religious obligation, not out of a burdened heart.

Finally, as you grow in ever-increasing and perfecting love, honesty, and joyful obedience, you will be able to change your thinking and live with victorious faith to overcome the world.

Application:

Pray and read God's Word daily. Delight in what He says, even the difficult things. Allow God and His Word to shape your mind and heart, and you will experience His perfecting love.

Next Steps:

- Memorize 1 John 4:18.
- Pray Daily.
- Read God's Word Daily.
- Change Your Stink'n Think'n.

Other Referenced Scriptures

John 3:16; John 5:24; Romans 8:1; Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Philippians 4:4-8, 19; Proverbs 23:7; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6