

Session #3 - Life Together: Fearlessness
I John 4:1 - 5:4

Remember: We Are from God (I Jo 4:1-6)

- Our newly created life comes out of... God! (I Jo 4:4,6; Ro 11:36)
 - ...if our origins are in God, our destiny is to live by His Life (II Pet 1:3,4)
 - (there are no self-caused, self-made, self-created Christians!)
- He gives us Himself (Jo 3:16; Col 3:4; I Jo 5:11-12)
 - ...sin destroying, devil defeating, righteous, holy, sinless, deathless...
- The Overcomer abides in us (I Jo 4:4)
 - ...we have a place of untouchable refuge, of fearless love that is off limits to the world, to sin, to the devil, to death (Matt 28:18; I Jo 5:18; Jo 14:30)

Remember: Put Every Voice/Spirit/Teaching to the Test (I Jo 4:1-6; I Thess 5:21)

- There is a spirit of error/of anti-christ...
 - ...who hates the union of Creator and creature (I Jo 4:2)
 - ...who is at work in the church (I Jo 2:18,19)
 - ...the burden of proof is on the hearer (I Jo 3:7; Matt 24:4-5)
 - ...this is a "religious" spirit (Is 14:13,14)
- Key factors:
 - ...What do they say about Jesus Christ? (I Jo 4:2,3)
 - (He is 100% God and 100% man - perfectly able to fully save! - Col 2:9-10)
 - ...What do they say about victory/overcoming?
 - (He has overcome all our adversaries - I Jo 4:4)
 - ...What do they say about the believer's relational union with God?
 - (He has joined His Spirit to our spirits - I Cor 6:17)

Remember: God Is Love (I Jo 4:7-8)

- By nature, He is a Being for others (Deut 7:7-8; I Cor 13)
 - ... "first love" is always God's love (I Jo 4:19)
 - ... He needs no deserving object to love (Ro 5:6-10; Jo 15:13)
- His love is personally demonstrated to us (I Jo 4:9-10)
 - ... God's love is a holy passion for oneness (Lk 19:10)
 - ... The extent of God's love: whole world; the intent: "we might live through Him" (I Jo 4:9,10,14)
(We are the recipients of His loving life!)

Remember: God Is Perfecting Our Capacity to Know and Express His Loving Life (I Jo 2:5; 4:12,17-18)

- We are to experience it for ourselves, express it (freely) to others (I Jo 3:16)
 - ("it" = His fearless love! - I Jo 4:18)
 - ... His perfect, fearless love is the sphere of all genuine human transformation/maturity (I Jo 4:17)
- This "perfecting" calls for...
 - ... getting immersed/lost in the love of God (I Jo 4:19)
 - ... a willingness to love whomever God sends (I Jo 4:20; Jo 15:13)
- Signs of "growing up":
 - ... a growing confidence, freedom from our "fears" (I Jo 4:17-18; Ro 8:35ff)
 - ... an increasing genuineness/integration (I Jo 4:20; II Cor 12:9)
 - ... a maturing obedience (I Jo 5:2-3)
 - ... revelation takes us to love and bless others (I Jo 3:18)
- We serve, lead, speak, teach... **TO MAKE VISIBLE THE LOVE OF GOD** (I Jo 3:16; 4:12; Matt 10:8)
 - ... in the Body of Christ = "edification" (I Cor 8:1; I Thess 5:1; II Cor 10:8; 12:19; 13:10)
 - ... in the world = "evangelism" (Jo 13:34,35; Jo 14:9)
- Loving others is a natural consequence of belonging to Christ (I Jo 4:17,20)
 - ... we will never be at home living for ourselves again (Ro 15:3)
 - ... loving others is no burden to the Lover in us! (I Jo 4:17; 5:3-4)