

# All Saints Anglican Church

## SERMON (Trinity 1 Sunday)

by Fr Reed K. Merino

Epistle (First Lesson – *I John iv. 8-21* on BCP page 189)

This sermon or homily is from the King James Version of the Bible Commentary, first published in 1983 and again in 2005.

### Verses 7-10 discuss "let us love one another".

- Again John returns to the theme of love, but this time it is as a direct exhortation to the believers in order to show that they are different from the false teachers.
- Once more the principle is stated that "*Everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God*".
- The negative minor premise is "*He that loveth not, knoweth not God*".
- The major premise is listed both here and in verse 16 (where it is followed by the positive minor premise "*God is love*").
- This should be compared to 1:5 where "*God is light*".
- The proof of God's love to us is clearly seen in that He sent his only Son into the world to die on the cross as our propitiation (**compare 4:10 with 2:2 and see the comments there**).
- "That we might live through him" shows the purpose and the design of the atonement, as well as the fact that life that is the new quality of life for the Christian does not come by knowledge , but rather through the atonement of Christ alone.

Atonement - In western Christian theology, atonement describes how human beings can be reconciled to God through Christ's sacrificial death.<sup>[1]</sup> Atonement refers to the forgiving or pardoning of sin in general and original sin in particular through the death

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and resurrection of Jesus,<sup>[2]</sup> enabling the reconciliation between God and his creation.

## Verses 11-16

- The love of God to us makes us obligated to love one another, for this is the only way we can show that we really have love.
- Claiming to love God is meaningless, without showing love to each other.
- "Because he hath given us of his spirit".
- This is repeated from 3:24, except that here the word "given" is in the perfect tense in the original showing the certainty of the fact that the apostles, rather than the false teachers, are moved by the spirit of God, and are united in their testimony about Christ.
- "We have seen and do testify" refers again to the testimony of the apostles; this is the same way the epistle started (see 1:1-4).
- The testimony of Christ is here more general, to include that God has sent the Son as the Saviour of the world.

## Verses 17 – 18

- "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we".
- This verse does not mean to say that we can become perfect in fulfilling the command of love.
- First, the original does not say, "our love", but "love with us"
- It is because God is love, and because he lives in us, that love can become truly accomplished with us.
- God is love, so in a sense, we are love (we are all the world will ever see of love).

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- The whole point is that **We love .... because he first loved us.**

## Verses 20 – 21

- The principle of love is repeated here, and once again it is demonstrated that the false teachers do not pass the test.
- How can they claim to love God if they do not love a brother (person) who is right there before their eyes with a real need.
- Love in "word" is not real; it remains to be demonstrated.

### **FOR THE EPISTLE:** 1 Saint John 4:7ff

BELOVED, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we love God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear bath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also.