

**THE EFFECTS OF LOVE**  
**(1 John 3:19-24)**

**I. It gives us assurance with God (vs. 19-21).**

- A. The word “hereby” looks back to what has just been said.
  - 1. John has told us to love with our actions.
  - 2. When we do that we know that we are of the truth.
  - 3. This is probably echoing the words of Jesus spoken to Pilate, “Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice (John 17:38).
- B. When you and I are loving the way that we should, shown through our actions and not voice, then we can be assured that we are of the truth, or of God, which means the same thing.
  - 1. The word “assured” means to entice or persuade.
  - 2. In this case, it carries the idea of freeing from doubt or fear.
  - 3. Sometimes, fear attacks us that we are not what we should be.
  - 4. However, if we are loving God and man the way that we should, that assures us that we are of the truth.
- C. There are times when our conscience bothers us even though we may be showing our love.
  - 1. The heart is a reference to the conscience.
  - 2. John tells us not to give up because God knows us better than we know ourselves
- D. However, when our conscience is in line and we are living right, it gives us great assurance to be able to approach God in prayer.
  - 1. Confidence means freedom or frankness in speaking.
  - 2. When we are right with God and our conscience is properly trained, then we can go to God openly and honestly with our requests.
  - 3. Notice this statement about this word in a lexical aid book: “Especially in Hebrews and 1 John, the word particularly denotes the unwavering, fearless and unhesitating confidence of faith in communion with God.”
  - 4. The writer went on to say, “It comes as the result of the ground of guilt being set aside.”
  - 5. There is no fear in going before God with our petitions when we are truly loving the brethren.
- E. We have assurance of a right relationship with God when we love.

**II. It leads to positive answers to our prayers (vs. 22-23).**

- A. One of the great blessings of being a child of God is His answers of our prayers
- B. This passage teaches that one of the effects of proper love is that God will give us that for which we ask in prayer.
  - 1. Now, we need to be careful hear to remember that this must be considered in light of what the entire Bible teaches about prayer.
  - 2. Just because we love does not mean we are going to get everything for which we ask.
  - 3. The prayer must be asked with God’s will in mind, what is best for situation, which we don’t always know, the prayer must be asked in faith and other things.
- C. The reason this is the case is that we are keeping His commandments and we are doing those things that please Him.
- D. It is interesting that the word “commandment” in verse 23 is singular but there are two things listed.
  - 1. What this means is that the commandment enjoins all that is meant in believing in Jesus and loving others.
  - 2. Believe means obedient faith in all that is involved in the authority of Jesus, not just mere mental assent.
- E. This shows us that we must live faithfully in order to receive the blessings of God.
  - 1. There is much expected of the child of God.
  - 2. This, despite what many teach, shows we must do some things.

3. Grace does save us, but there is an active, obedient faith on our part that is very involved in salvation as well.
- F. When we are loving the brethren, which is involved in believing the authority of Jesus, we are able to receive positive answers to our prayer requests that are in line with the will of God.

**III. It allows us to abide in Christ (vs. 24).**

- A. Those that keep the commandments of Christ, specifically in our text that of love, abide in Christ.
1. This carries the same meaning as verse 6.
  2. We have taken up residence in Christ through obedience and we will not be moved.
  3. We are going to love the way He commands because we have chosen to make our home in Christ.
- B. Many communities have what are called covenants that must be kept by the homeowners or homebuilders.
1. If you choose to live in that community you must keep the covenant of that community.
  2. You know what the rules for the house size, lot upkeep and beautification or whatever is in the covenant.
  3. You keep those rules because that is where you have chosen to live.
  4. That is the way it is with Christ.
  5. You know the rules and you choose to abide by them because you want to live in Christ.
- C. Not only do we abide in Christ, but Christ abides in us.
1. This is a reference to the words of Jesus (John 14:23).
  2. This refers to the fellowship we have with the Godhead as citizens of the kingdom of heaven.
- D. The way that we know Jesus abides is by the Holy Spirit.
1. The Spirit works through the word of God to let us know that we are in Christ.
  2. This is not a direct operation of the Holy Spirit being taught by John.
  3. When you and I read the Spirit inspired Word and obey it we know that we are in Christ because that is what the Word says is the case.
  4. Notice this statement by Guy N. Woods, "If it be asked how the Spirit does this, the answer is, Through the word of God, the only motivating force in immediate contact with the individual."
- E. When we are loving as the Lord has commanded it has the effect of allowing us to abide in the Lord.