

Good News for Young People

1 John 4:13–21 (ESV)

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 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. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Background

John writes to Christians who were facing false teaching and uncertainty about their faith. Throughout 1 John, he repeatedly reminds believers that the message they received came from Jesus Himself. This message should transform how we live and love.

In 1 John 4:13–21, John shows that the Gospel creates three realities in every believer. Through Christ we have an **abiding relationship with God**, an **assured relationship in God**, and an **abounding relationship with one another**.

These truths are not only important for individual Christians, but they shape the kind of church we become. The Gospel does not merely save isolated individual. It forms a family where faith is passed from one generation to another through lives that abide in Christ together.

DISCUSS

1. An Abiding Relationship with God (v13–16)

John repeatedly uses the word "abide," meaning to remain or continue in an ongoing relationship with God. By sending His Son as the Saviour of the world and giving believers His Spirit, God enables us to abide in Him.

This relationship is marked by confessing Jesus as the Son of God (v15) and believing His love for us (v16). Our identity is therefore found not in what we can do for God, but in what God has already done for us in Christ.

Who has helped you grow in your relationship with Christ? Looking back, what did they do that helped you abide more deeply in Him?

2. An Assured Relationship in God (v17–18)

John explains that God's love is being "perfected" in believers (v17a), not meaning that Christians become flawless in this life, but that God's love is accomplishing its purpose in them. That purpose is that believers can face the day of judgement with confidence (v17b) rather than fear because they belong to Christ.

John then says that "perfect love casts out fear." Fear comes from the expectation of punishment, but the Gospel declares that Christ has already borne that punishment on the cross.

Therefore, our confidence rests not on our own goodness or spiritual performance, but on Christ's finished work. As we trust His perfect love, we grow in assurance and confidence before God.

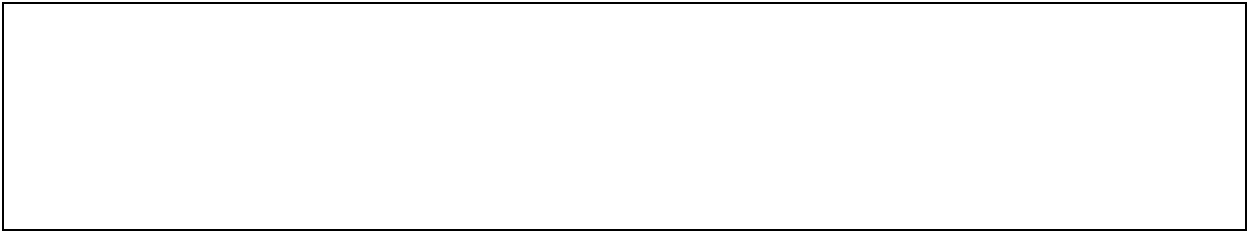
Where do you turn for assurance when your faith feels weak or you are aware of your failures?

3. An Abounding Relationship with One Another (vv19–21)

John concludes that God's love is never meant to stop with us. Because God first loved us (v19), those who belong to Him will love one another (v21). Our love for God's people becomes visible evidence of our love for God.

The Gospel therefore creates not only individual believers but also a spiritual family. God often grows and preserves His people through the ordinary faithfulness of parents, leaders, church members and friends who pray, encourage, teach God's Word, and walk alongside one another. In this way, the church becomes an intergenerational family where the Gospel is both proclaimed and lived out.

Because God first loved us, who is one person in our church that you can intentionally love and encourage this season?



Pray For:

1. Abiding in Christ

Pray that we would grow in abiding with Christ through His Word, prayer, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

2. Assured Relationship in God

Pray that God's perfect love would give us confidence before Him and cast out our fears, doubts, and insecurities.

3. Abounding Relationship with One Another

Pray that God would help us become an intergenerational church where His love is made visible as we intentionally love, encourage, and disciple the younger generation.