BOOK OF 1 JOHN
Lesson #14 - Perfect Love
Scripture Reading: 1John 4:17-21

Introduction:
1. Man has different definitions for love. The love from God is perfect (i.e. complete).
2. The love that has been perfected in us serves a great purpose.
3. How does perfect love improve our spiritual life before God?

I. GIVES US BOLDNESS IN JUDGMENT
   A. THE REALITY OF JUDGMENT
      1. Several of the Jesus’ parables taught Judgment
         a. Parable of the Tares - Mt 13:24-30; 36-43
         b. Parable of the Dragnet - Mt 13:47-52
         c. All three parables in Matthew 25
      2. Writings in the NT
         a. After death in judgment - He 9:27
         b. We will all appear in judgment - 2Co 5:10

   B. WE WALK AS JESUS WALKED
      1. A servant is not greater than his master - Jn 15:20
      2. We are to be imitators of Jesus - 1Co 11:1; Ph 4:9
      3. We are to walk worthy of the Lord - Co 1:10

II. MOTIVATES US PROPERLY
   A. FEAR CAN STEER ONE AWAY FROM SIN
      1. Fear is reverent respect for God - Ex 20:20; De 5:29
      2. We are to perfect holiness in fear of the Lord - 2Co 7:1

   B. LOVE MOTIVATES US TO RIGHTEOUSNESS
      1. Loving God is the greatest commandment - Mt 22:36-38
      2. We are to imitate God as dear children - Ep 5:1
      3. We grow in the fruit of the Spirit - Ga 5:22, 23

III. TEACHES US TO LOVE
   A. NATURE OF LOVE AND HATE
      1. They cannot coexist in the same heart.
      2. Compare light and darkness - 1Jn 1:5, 6

   B. RELATING TO OUR BROTHER
      1. Be reconciled - Mt 5:23, 24; 18:15-17
      2. Speak well of them - Ja 3:9-12

Conclusion:
1. God has demonstrated His perfect love for us - Ro 5:6-8
2. Likewise, we reflect His great love to Him, to each other, and to the lost.

Eric Hicks