

Perfected Love
1 John 4:12-16

Pastor Jeff Schwarzentraub
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Perfected love is . . .

Practiced and Present in the people of God. (12,16)

Possible with the Spirit of God. (13)

Personal through the Son of God. (14-15)

[READ 1 John 4:12-16]

[Sermon Summary]

If we love one another God abides in us: This is the greatest evidence of God's presence and work among us –love. Since no one has seen God at any time, this provides evidence for the presence of God. Perfected love is . . . Practiced and Present in the people of God. (12,16) The greatest evidence of God's presence and practice is love. Where God is present and practicing, there will be love. We abide in Him, and He in us: Perfected love is . . . Possible with the Spirit of God. (13) Just as true as it is that we should abide in Him [Jesus], it is true that He does abide in us. It is the testimony of the Holy Spirit within us that makes it possible for us to love. The best way to glorify God is to love people, the way God loves us.

Discussion Starters:

[The discussion starters are designed to help each other apply God's Word to our week. The idea is to help others continually take steps of obedience to God's voice in our lives.]

What did God speak to you personally through the message this weekend? How have you grown in your ability to love people, that are naturally a struggle for you to love? Who are the people in your life that are more of a struggle to love? [Parents, kids, co-workers, neighbors?] What are some steps you can take this season to love them like Christ loves you? How have other people seen you do this, and God used this to bring them closer to God. What are ways that you can grow in your ability to love all people? What is one thing you can do this week to love all people, like God loves you?