

November 27–December 3. 1–3 John; Jude: “God Is Love”

Overview

Recall that John asked Jesus if he could remain on earth and continue in His service until He comes again

D&C 7:3

And the Lord said unto me: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, because thou desirest this thou shalt tarry until I come in my glory, and shalt prophesy before nations, kindreds, tongues and people.

It is believed that John wrote Revelations about 96 AD (exiled on Patmos), his Gospel about 98 AD (living in Ephesus), and his letters about 100 AD

Themes from John’s epistles include: God is love, God is light, God is life

God Is Love

John states how God demonstrates His love for us.

1Jhn 4:9-10

[9] 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.

[10] Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

What did God do to demonstrate that He loves us all?

(God sent his only begotten Son into the world)

Thomas S. Monson

"Our Heavenly Father's plan contains the ultimate expressions of true love. All the we hold dear - even our families, our friends, our joy, our knowledge, our testimonies, - would vanish were it not for our Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.... The world has witnessed no greater gift, nor has it known more lasting love." (CR, April 1993)

God’s love is unconditional. But there are things we need to do to accept the blessing of his love in our lives

1Jhn 2:15-17

[15] Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

[16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

[17] And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of

God abideth for ever.

What must we avoid in order to have the love of God reside within us?

(Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world... the love of the Father is not in him)

Neal A. Maxwell

"The great apostle of love, John, reminded us that this world will pass away and the lust thereof. This means, quite frankly, that not only can lust ruin this life, but it is pandering to an appetite that will have no existence in the next world!

"By denying ourselves some appetites altogether, by ordering other appetites, and by losing ourselves in service-we find ourselves. We simply cannot make a difference in the world if we are just like the lost people of the world." ("The Stern but Sweet Seventh Commandment," New Era, June 1979)

1Jhn 4:15-18

[15] Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

[16] 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.

[17] 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.

[18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

What must we do to show we love God and to partake His love?

(confess that Jesus is the Son of God)

What blessing is promised to those who receive God's love?

(we may have boldness in the day of judgment)

(perfect love casteth out fear)

What do you think are some examples of fears that are prominent in this life that will be diminished when we have the love of God within us?

Death, wars, family relationships, financial hardships, sickness, lack of personal direction/purpose, ...

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, if we ever find ourselves living in fear or anxiety, or if we ever find that our own words, attitudes, or actions

are causing fear in others, I pray with all the strength of my soul that we may become liberated from this fear by the divinely appointed antidote to fear: the pure love of Christ, for 'perfect love casteth out fear.'" (CR, April 2017)

1Jhn 5:3

[3] For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

What must we do to show we love God and to partake His love?

(that we keep his commandments)

Joseph B. Wirthlin

"Do you love the Lord?"

"Spend time with Him. Meditate on His words. Take His yoke upon you. Seek to understand and obey, because 'this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.' When we love the Lord, obedience ceases to be a burden. Obedience becomes a delight. When we love the Lord, we seek less for things that benefit us and turn our hearts toward things that will bless and uplift others.

"As our love for the Lord deepens, our minds and hearts become purified. We experience a 'mighty change in our hearts.'" (CR, Oct. 2007)

John tells us that when we accept God's love we are able to truly love others.

1Jhn 3:10-11,17-18

[10] In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

[11] For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

[17] But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

[18] My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

According to John, how are we expected to express this love for others?

(in deed and in truth)

Marion D. Hanks

"God so loved that he gave.

"Christ so loved that he gave.

"We are here on this earth to learn, after the example of the Father and the Son, to love enough to give....

"The love we speak of is not just a word or a feeling or a sentiment. John wrote: 'My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.'

"So we are speaking of choosing a course of sharing, of giving, of graciousness, of kindness, not as optional elements of the gospel, but the heart of it." (CR, Oct. 1990)

How can we help the needy and be sure we are not enabling bad behavior?

This service is a natural result of first loving God

Ezra T. Benson

"The world largely ignores the first and great commandment - to love God - but talks a lot about loving their brother....

"Only those who know and love God can best love and serve his children, for only God fully understands his children and knows what is best for their welfare. Therefore, one needs to be in tune with God to best help his children....

"If you desire to help your fellowmen the most, then you must put the first commandment first. When we fail to put the love of God first, we are easily deceived by crafty men who profess a great love of humanity, while advocating programs that are not of the Lord." (CR, Oct. 1967)

Loving God and receiving His love is equivalent to being born of God

1Jhn 4:7-8,11-12

[7] Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

[8] He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

[11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

[12] No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

JST 1Jhn 4:12 - No man hath seen God at any time, *except them who believe.*

What does John equate with being "born of God"?

(every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God)

(If we love one another, God dwelleth in us)

1Jhn 5:1-2

[1] Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

[2] By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

What must we do first if we truly want to love and help others?

(when we love God, and keep his commandments)

Bruce R. McConkie

“Every one that loveth Christ - who begets us spiritually and whose children we become when we are born again - loveth his brethren also, for his brethren have been adopted into the same family with him and have a special, spiritual kinship with him". (DNTC 3:401)

Let's read some other scriptures that refer to the great happiness and blessing of being able to partake of God's love

1Ne 11:21-23

[21] And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?

[22] And I answered him, saying: Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things.

[23] And he spake unto me, saying: Yea, and the most joyous to the soul.

What is it that brings us the most joy?

(it is the love of God... most joyous to the soul)

4Ne 1:15

And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people

What blessing did all the people receive because the love of God dwelt in their hearts?

(No contention)

D&C 95:1

Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you whom I love, and whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven, for with the chastisement I prepare a way for their deliverance in all things out of temptation, and I have loved you

What blessing is promised to those who receive God's love?

(chasten that their sins may be forgiven... I prepare a way for their deliverance)

D&C 76:114-116

114. But great and marvelous are the works of the Lord, and the mysteries of his kingdom which he showed unto us, which surpass all understanding in glory, and in might, and in dominion;

115 Which he commanded us we should not write while we were yet in the Spirit; and are not lawful for man to utter;

116 Neither is man capable to make them known, for they are only to be seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him;

What blessing is promised to those who receive God's love?

(the mysteries of his kingdom... are only to be seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him)

Rom 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God

What blessing is promised to those who receive God's love?

1Cor 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him

This is a good summary

God Is Light

1Jhn 1:4-7

[4] And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

[5] This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

[6] If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

[7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

What do you think John is referring to when he tells us to “walk in the light”?

Delbert L. Stapley

“The gospel of Christ is a lamp in our hands to guide us in righteous paths.

Light can always dissipate darkness, but darkness can never replace light. It is only when the light of the Spirit within us is dimmed or goes out that the darkness of temptation and sin enters in, and Satan takes over.” (CR, April 1968)

What is the promise of those who walk in the light?

(we have fellowship one with another)
(his Son cleanseth us from all sin)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“Christ’s light brings hope, happiness, and healing of any spiritual wound or ailment. Those who experience this refining influence become instruments in the hands of the Light of the World to give light to others. They will feel what King Lamoni felt: ‘This light had infused such joy into his soul, the cloud of darkness having been dispelled, and... the light of everlasting life was lit up in his soul’ (Alma 19:6).” (CR, Oct. 2017)

1Jhn 2:8-10

[8] Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

[9] He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

[10] He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

What is the promise of those who walk in the light?

(there is none occasion of stumbling in him)

And in this way we can continue to progress.

D&C 50:24-25

[24] That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day.

[25] And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you;

God is Life

Eternal life is given to all those who believe in Christ and obey his commandments

1Jhn 5:11-13,20

[11] And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

[12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.
[13] These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

[20] And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Robert D. Hales

“How I love the commandments of the Lord! If we faithfully obey the commandments, we are promised the blessings of eternal life. Eternal life, ‘the greatest of all the gifts of God’ (D&C 14:7), is to be exalted and to live with Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ in all the eternities to come. He dearly wants us to return to Him. (CR, April 1996)

Apostasy

The message of Jude is to warn of apostasy. He warns the members that there are those among them that would purposefully corrupt the principle of the Church.

Jude 1:4

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

He gives them the example of 3 apostates

Jude 1:11

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Cain: Performed sacrifices his own way instead of obeying the Lord. He killed his brother to get gain and became master of secret works.

Balaam: Used his God-given gift of prophecy to get riches and honor of men (Num 22:5,25)

Core (Korah): Rebelled against Moses because of his exclusion from a priesthood office (Num 16:1-3,31-35)

Why do you think someone would purposefully corrupt the practices and doctrine of the Church? What motivates apostates?

Power, gain, honor of men (will read BofM examples)

Jude warns that there are such people and we should beware of them. He also tells

what we must do to remain separate from them. And tells us how we can to help others

Jude 1:16-23

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

What can we do to reverse the work of these apostates and help others come to Christ?

(building up yourselves on your most holy faith,
Keep yourselves in the love of God
of some have compassion
others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire)

Russell M. Nelson

“When we choose to... allow the Savior to transform us into the best version of ourselves. We choose to grow spiritually and receive joy—the joy of redemption in Him. When we choose to repent, we choose to become more like Jesus Christ!

“Brethren, we need to do better and be better because we are in a battle. The battle with sin is real. The adversary is quadrupling his efforts to disrupt testimonies and impede the work of the Lord. He is arming his minions with potent weapons to keep us from partaking of the joy and love of the Lord.”
(CR, April 2019)