

Teaching Outline

Title: A DIVINE CONFIDENCE

Text: 1 John 4:18-19

Theme: Because of God's love every person who has confessed Christ as Lord has been given a Divine Confidence of salvation from God. This Divine Confidence is seen in our love for God and our fellow man.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. As a counselor, youth pastor, and friend I have observed an enormous level of fear at work in the lives of people. Fear of failure, rejection, humiliation, inability, etc. I, myself, have dealt with many fears; sometimes well. At other times. I've cowered. My desire this morning is that by the end of this message our confidence will be encouraged, and our hope made more secure.
- 1.2. Here is where we are going this morning... (give outline).

Opening Prayer

Read Text

The very first concept that we are introduced to in this passage is "fear". This is not simply the carnal fear that we experience: fear of the dark, or heights. This fear is greater and more profound. And to understand the effects of this fear we need to understand what it is and where it came from.

2. LOVE'S ANTITHESIS - FEAR

At the moment that Adam sinned an impassable breach was torn between God and Man. Man, previous to this point had been without sin. But now Man stood opposed to God. God was Holy, Man was not. This breach effected every part of our existence, but none more profoundly than our relationship with both God and man.

2.1.1. Terror of God - shame and hiding

- 2.1.1.1. Our first parents - Gen. 3:10 "He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."
- 2.1.1.2. Our natural response to God - John 3:20 "Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

2.1.2. Fear of Man - silence not confession

- 2.1.2.1. John 7:13 "But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews."

2.1.2.2. John 9:22 “His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue.”

2.1.2.3. John 12:42 “Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue.”

In 7:13 John simply says, “they would not speak”. However, in 9:22 and 12:42 John uses the word *homologeō* (to confess). We will see this theme again when we get to 1 John.

The next concept in our passage is Love. This love, like the fear we just looked at, is not simply a carnal, emotional love. It is a perfect love John tells us. So we need to pay close attention to both the source of this love, and the impact of this love.

3. LOVE’S PERFECTION

3.1. God’s nature

3.1.1. 1John 4:8 “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

3.1.2. 1 John 4:16b “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

3.2. God’s Demonstration

3.2.1. 1 John 4:9-10 “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Did you see what it is we are responsible for here? Don’t miss this. John wants to be so sure that we get the message that he literally goes back to front then front to back. He does this by putting the words in order of importance in v. 9.

“In this - is revealed - the love - of God - to us”

“that - the son - his - the only begotten - has been sent - God - into - the world - so that - it might be saved - through him.”

“In this - is love”

“Not - that - we loved - God”

“BUT - that - He loved - us.

And - he sent - the son - His - the propitiation - for - the sins - ours”

John does this to both show us, and encourage us, “there is nothing you bring to the table! It is all of God!”

4. LOVE'S DIVINE CONFIDENCE

- 4.1. Our confidence is made possible by God and flows out of who He is. Because of what HE has done we can rest in this confident peace.
 - 4.1.1. That you have no reason to fear judgment
 - 4.1.1.1. 1 John 4:16 “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.”
 - 4.1.1.2. 1John 2:28 “And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”
- 4.2. Because
 - 4.2.1. You have been born of God and belong to God
 - 4.2.1.1. 1 John 4:6, 8 “We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. ... Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
 - 4.2.2. God lives in you.
 - 4.2.2.1. 1 John 4:13, 15 “We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.”
 - 4.2.3. God's love is trustworthy
 - 4.2.3.1.1. 1 John 4:16 “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.”
 - 4.2.3.1.2. Rom. 8:15 “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

So what does it look like to walk in this peace, in this Hope, and in this Confidence?

5. DIVINE CONFIDENCE - PROOFS

- 5.1. You boldly confess Christ
 - 5.1.1. 1John 4:15 “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.”
 - 5.1.1.1. You boldly confess sin
 - 5.1.1.1.1. 1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- 5.2. You freely love God
 - 5.2.1. By freely obeying His commands
 - 5.2.1.1. 1 John 5:3-4 “This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

5.2.2. By freely loving others

5.2.2.1. 1John 4:7 “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

5.2.2.2. 1 John 4:11 “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

5.2.2.3. 1 John 4:19-21 “We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

6. **APPLICATION**

6.1. Have you confessed Christ?

6.1.1. Do you see that your hope can only be confident if it is in God’s love?
OR do you waiver, and doubt?

6.1.1.1. “What if’s” I didn’t do it right? I’ve resisted too long? Sinned to much? Ignored God.

6.1.2. Is your hope in Christ’s atoning work alone?
OR is your hope in something else?

6.1.2.1. ‘YOUR’ Goodness. Money. Reputation. Strength. Knowledge.

6.1.2.2. Do you boldly confess your sin to God knowing that He has accepted you?

6.2. Has God’s love freed you to confidently love your fellow man?

6.2.1. Do you openly acknowledge Christ? Do you pray for the lost? Do you confidently proclaim the Gospel?

CLOSING PRAYER