

WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE A

CHRISTIAN



A CONFIDENT LIFE

1 John 4:16-21

1 John 4:16-21, “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment.

The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.



1. We rely on the love of God.

Nicene Creed

“I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and Glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.”

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:9-13: If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with the heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scriptures says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.



1. We rely on the love of God.

2. Having confidence



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3. The Holiness of God

Isaiah 6:1-5: “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings; with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another. ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory.’ At the sound of their voices the door posts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ‘Woe to me’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’”

Leviticus 11:44, “I am the Lord your God, consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.”

Leviticus 19:2, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them, ‘be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”

Psalms 99:5, “Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; He is holy.”



What does God's holiness
have to do with
judgement and punishment?

Romans 4:7-8: “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

On the day of judgement, “Christians will have confidence. Why? Because God looks at us in the same way he looks at his Son Jesus. I am in Christ and my sins are covered. As Jesus is loved by the Father, so I am loved by the Father. I will have confidence in the day that when I leave this world and enter that world to stand before a holy God, I will have no fear because as Jesus is loved, so God loves me now in the world. As Jesus is treated there now, so I will be treated there then, because of the love of God for me. We have a loving confidence because as he is so also we are in this world.”

Romans 5:6-9: “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, now much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!?”

1. We rely on the love of God.
2. Having confidence
3. The Holiness of God
4. Love others who are seen.

1 John 4:20 “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.”

1 John 4:21 “And he has given us this command, anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 14:15 “If you love me, keep my commandments.”

John 15:17 “This is my command, love each other.”

Romans 8:31-39 “What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one.

Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we face death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”