

- A real relationship with God impacts how we live among God's people

1. **Being loved is the foundation for loving others – v1-2**

- v10 links love for Christians to our status as children (3:1)
- How do we keep showing love in the face of hurt & disappointment?
- You can't love continuously unless you know continuous love
- Christ died so that sinners could become children of God, infinitely loved
- Always need to keep going back to the Cross—to marvel at the depth of love we receive. The more we grasp the more we can display

2. **Envy is the downfall of love – v12-13**

- Cain envied God's approval of Abel
- Envyng what God has given other Christians disrupts fellowship
- Breeds bitterness, anger, jealousy, frustration
- Need to grasp that God is an all-powerful, all-loving, and *all-wise* father
- If it's good for us to have, God will give it – Ps 84:11
- Love seeks the others best, not covet it

3. **Christ is the pattern for love – v16-18**

- Christ's love was sacrificial - What does it cost us to love each other?
- Our love is to be sacrificial – but not just in the big things – v17-18
- We are to love with time, with conversation, in practical ways
- We are free to give, because we have a father who lavishes
- Love looks like 1 Cor 13:4-7

4. **Confidence before God is a result of love – v19-24**

- Right attitudes to sin & Christians gives us confidence before God
- Confidence in our salvation
 - If we grasp God's love such that we display it – we will be reassured of God's love for us
 - Too often our hearts condemn us wrongly
 - God uses our active love for Christians to reassure us that we belong
 - Do you God's people? Do they mean something to you?
 - Faith, love and obedience mark out the Christian v23.
 - Those who continue in them have assurance v24
- Confidence in prayer
 - It's hard to pray when you are bitter, angry, jealous etc
 - Right attitudes bring answers - Fighting sin brings answers
 - Our requests are shaped by our desire to please him - v22, 5:14
 - His answer is shaped by a loving father who knows best - 3:1



Notices

Sab	Evening meeting at Mark & Judith's - Prayer	8pm
Tues	Book Study - Disciplines of a Godly Man/Woman - ch 8 Mark & Judith's	8pm
Wed	Made in China - Release International Irish missionaries in China - The persecuted church Trinity Hall, Letterkenny	8pm
Sat 10th May	Family Day Conference - Self worth, Identity and Stress in Childhood Speaker Brenda Kelso - 10.30am-3pm Details on poster - application forms available	

Denomination News

Summer Camps

Application forms available. Deadline: 1st May. Remember the fellowship pays half the cost

Day Visitors to Castlewellaan Conference

If you aren't able to go to the conference/holiday week in August you are welcome to go as a day visitor. Please fill in a forms if you intend to go as a day visitor.

Students for the Ministry

All the students passed their exams. Three of them are being licensed next month (Philip Moffett, Simon Sweeney, Tim McEwen), then they will be available for congregations to call them to be their minister.

Next Sabbath: 1 John 4

Opening Psalm: 74:12-16

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Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002