

WHY DOES GOD DWELL IN MAN?

I John 4:12-16

Introduction;

- A. Does God dwell in individuals?
 - 1. Some say no, only in His church body.
 - 2. Jesus said so. John 7:37-39.
 - 3. Paul said so. Rom. 8:11-
 - 4. John said so. vs. 15

- B. God dwells in man, so men may know of God.
 - 1. Men cannot see God. vs. 12
 - a. "no man hath seen God at any time."
 - b. John 5:36-38, John 1:18
 - c. shape = external appearance, form.
 - 2. Men displaying godly love toward one another is the most creditable evidence of God. dwelling in them. 3:10.
 - a. "by this shall all men know...."

- C. When men saw Jesus, they saw every attribute and every characteristic of God.
 - 1. Jesus was God in human flesh, He was made flesh and dwelt among us.
 - 2. Hence, he that saw Jesus saw God because Jesus did the works of God.
 - 3. John 14:7-11

- D. Jesus has gone to the Father, and He has left us to do His work and to display His attributes.
 - 1. This is possible because we are born of Him.
 - 2. 3:2, 5:1, John 3:3.
 - 3. The greatest spiritual gift is love because it is the only one God possesses.

**I . GOD DWELLS IN US TO
PERFECT HIS LOVE. VS. 12**

- A. He is an inward force.
 - 1. God dwelleth in us."
 - 2. vs. 4 ..."greater is he..."

- B. This inward force strives to reproduce the attributes of God.
 - 1. "and his love is perfected in us.."
 - 2. perfected = to complete, to bring to a full end.

II . GOD DWELLS IN US TO GIVE US ASSURANCE . VS . 13

- A. "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us."
 - 1. We can know that God lives in us.
 - 2. We can know that we live in God.

- B. "because he hath given us of his Spirit."
 - 1. "That which is flesh is flesh."
 - 2. "that which is spirit is spirit."

III . GOD DWELLS IN US SO THAT WE CAN TESTIFY . VS . 14

- A. "And we have seen and do testify."
 - 1. John had seen Him.
 - 2. We are not at a disadvantage.

- B. "and do testify."
 - 1. testify = to be able and ready to attest anything that one knows, to state with a degree of authority.
 - 2. "let the redeemed of the Lord say so."

IV . GOD DWELLS IN MAN BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST . VS . 15

- A. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God."
 - 1. whosoever = this includes all and excludes none!
 - 2. confess = agree with God about Jesus.

B. "God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

1. God abides in man.

2. Man abides in God.

V. THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVING ONE ANOTHER. VS. 16

A. Being born of God is two-fold.

1. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us."

a. known = to know previously.

b. believed = to rely upon, to trust.

B. "and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him."

1. If we are living like I Cor. 13, we are living like God.

C. The love we must have.

1. 3:16-17