

Main section of 2:28-5:17

2:28-4:19 how to attain ultimate confidence and avoid shame before God through sharing eternal life with fellow believers “under fire” (“bookends” of 2:28 & 4:17-19 expose the logic of John)

2:29-3:10a Distinguishing the righteousness of God in our experience

3:10b-3:23 The +R work of God in believers warrants our love toward it & results in expectation of answered prayer on their behalf

3:24-4:16 How the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is recognized through (1) illumination of Christ’s identity; and (2) the expression of his love toward other believers

Light : Life : : Righteousness : Love

Father loves +R in Son Son loves +R in Father	Love toward fallen man provides a +R solution (+R NEVER violated at any point)
Phase #1 gospel response	Substitutionary atonement exchanges sin for +R (human merit rejected—GWT will be a demonstration of that point)
Phase #2 walking in light, abiding, etc.	Re-created nature with “DNA” of Jesus Christ only source of +R (human merit rejected again)

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How do we recognize His Spirit operating in us so that we can know that He dwells in us??

Answer #1 (4:1-6): *check whether the picture of Jesus Christ fits the picture in the NT !*

Answer #2 (4:7-13): *is there a manifestation of loyalty to God's work among fellow believers?*

Why John's concern to put a foundation under “love”??

- **Without the Creator/creature distinction
→ *no basis of respect in every day
human relations***
- **Without the special work of God in
believers → *no basis for the kind of
love that is derived from God's nature
(i.e., the only “real” love)***

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