

January 6, 2024

Daily Reflections



THE TESTIMONY OF GOD

By Fr. David C. Robinson, SJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself.... this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever possesses the Son has life; whoever does not possess the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 JOHN 5:9-13

Reflection

As John's Epistle draws to a close, the emphasis shifts from the love of God, and the love we extend accordingly to one another, to the significance of Jesus as the Son of God, and how that reality affords us eternal life. The language may appear more 'theological' than 'spiritual,' but the link between love and

eternal life is forged in John's continued unfolding of the role of Jesus in God's eternal plan of love in Chapter 4: 7-18. He notes: **"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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."** Life lived in unifying love is the prelude to the graces of eternity.

It is precisely in the concrete manifestations of love throughout human history that we are able to perceive the presence of God in time, and the role of the Incarnation that enfleshed God's love for us and through us: **"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.... 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."** Although the Epistle attempts to integrate the fullness of love in the world to the infinite design of God for all eternity, the intimate tenderness of the first chapters remains intrinsic to the cosmic dimensions of the divine vision. The universal and the minutely particular are all part of one emerging tapestry of love in every time and circumstance. This is the heart of human salvation, and our inexhaustible gift of freedom and unity throughout life.



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For Pondering

- How do you experience the love of God as woven into your own

experiences of loving?

- How is your sense of ‘salvation’ linked to the workings of love in your life and your own gifts of love to others?
 - When have you experienced the presence of abiding love in your own times of prayer or worship?
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