

Week 40
274/91

Transforming Daily
“ . . . keep yourselves in the love of God . . . ”
Jude 20

What does it mean to keep oneself in the love of God? It doesn't mean that one can save one's self or even keep one's self saved. It doesn't mean that anyone does anything or is anybody special to when the favor or deserves the love of God. The Bible clearly says that God loved us while we were yet sinners. The Bible also says that God is no respecter of persons. God is Sovereign. He does what He wants, when He wants, where He wants, and with whom He wants. The Bible even says that we love Him because He first loved us. So what does it mean to "keep yourselves in the love of God?"

Jude offers this imperative word of admonition to the believers of the early church as a reminder of whose they are. With the backdrop of verses 4-19, Jude encourages the believer to remain faithful in Christ to the teachings and instruction that they had already received (v.3). Jude isn't saying that, "by the love you exemplified to get saved keep exemplifying it." He is saying that, "in and by the love of God which was extended to you by His grace, through faith, live in it" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Verse 20 has to do with the discipline of sanctification not the disposition of salvation. Jude is charging the believers to remain steadfast in the truth of the gospel, or more specifically "to contend earnestly for the faith." The Bible says that the world will know us by our love. It also says that if we have a personal relationship with God, we will love one another and keep His commandments. That is what it really means to "keep yourselves in the love of God."