

Introduction

The apostle has begun to close in his own hand rather than dictating to a scribe (v.21), and pronounces these solemn words –
"Anathema (= accursed) Maranatha" (= Syriac watchword for 'Our Lord comes')

1. A UNIVERSAL DISTINCTION

"If any man...'
No exceptions – all either love Christ or they do not.

2. A SURPRISING DISTINCTION

Not believing/unbelieving in this case as in many other places.
Love to Christ does not mean acceptance with God, but it is the inevitable accompaniment of true faith in Christ.

3. A DISTINCTION IN THE PRESENT

... if no love to Christ now

4. A DISTINCTION WITHIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH

This letter written to a professing Christian church

5. A DISTINCTION ENDORSED BY ALL WHO LOVE CHRIST

1) ... "Let him be..." cf Romans 10:1 – alternative "let him be"

- 2) The wickedness of not loving Christ
- 3) The justice of God – judgement of those outside of Christ

6. A DISTINCTION TO BE FINALLY AND FOREVER MANIFEST – MARANATHA

The saints long for the vindication of Christ's name.

SUMMARY

1. Any love to Christ a mark of grace
2. Why every believer thankfully loves Christ
 - a. Faith and repentance go together, opposite of trying to be 'as gods' (Genesis 3:5)
 - b. Faith and repentance the result of the new birth

Only forgiven sinners begin to love Christ (Psalm 130:4).
You must come to Christ for forgiveness.