

Series – 1 John

- John writing at end of His life
- Phrases like 'my little children', 'beloved'
- Group has deserted them 2:19
- Has been false teaching, addressing the issues
- Clarity from Grandpa

Scary Things to Consider

- There is evidence of authentic faith

Belief

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

confession repentance forgiveness

Behavior

"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

- advocate, propitiation, response
- loves me obeys my commands

Belonging – Relationships with Others

"Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness."

"Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

- vs. 7-8 refers to command of Jesus
- vs. 9-11 applies that to believers
- 1 John 3:14-15 "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

1. The Commandment Referenced

- John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - equating love & light, hatred and darkness
- 2 John 1:5 "And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another."

- a) In What sense is this Old?
- Matt. 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
 - always essential to gospel
 - what is given to you shown to others

- b) In What Sense is this New?
 - showing them a progression
 - John 1:5 'God is Light'
 - John 9:5 Jesus said, 'I am the light'
 - Matt. 5:14 Jesus says, 'You are the light'
 - John 4:7 God is Love
- John 15:12-13"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
 - 1 John 2:6 'walk as Jesus walked'

- sanctification living up to who I already am
- as God is Love, and has loved you, love each other
- new it is light shining through your lives

2. The Hard Truth

- John leaves no middle ground here
- cannot hate others and claim to walk in light
- hatred heart issue arising from justice and unforgiveness issues in our lives. It affects every area of our lives, limiting joy and peace, leading to spiritual death

- a) vertical and horizontal relationship linked
- Matthew 5:21-24 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

- Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of Unforgiving Servant
- Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
 - 'So far as it depends on you, live peaceably'
 - difficult to manage heart issue

b) Call to the One Anothers

- Rom. 12:10 prefer one another
- Rom. 14:13 don't judge one another
- Rom. 15:17 receive on another
- Rom. 15:14 admonish one another
- 1 Thess. 5:11 build up one another
- Gal. 6:2 bear with one another
- James 5:2 confess to one another
- 1 Peter 4:8 be hospitable

c) Hatred Blinds

- cannot see the way
 - often thinks they do, but blinded
- cause for stumbling
 - them and others
- Rom. 14:13"Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother."

1 John 2:7-11

- d) Love Shines a Light
 - fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5

So What?

- 1. For God so Loved the World.....
 - walk as Jesus walked
 - we received
 - we reflect
- 2. Evidence of Authentic Faith Love
 - real love reflects the light
- 3. Deal with Issues of Hatred (injustice and forgive)
- 4. Communion