

9/17/89

1 John 3

It is so easy to think at times that we are responsible for certain good things we do and lose complete sight that without God's initial love we could do nothing.

For this reason John focuses on God's unique love for sinful man which made him a Child of God and distinct in character from the unbeliever.

3:1-3 God's love for man.

3:1-2 The privilege of the believer.

- 1) Behold - Command to observe and understand the love of God (agape).
- 2) What manner - (potapen) something foreign, of what possible sort, astonishment and admiration is implied.
 - a) Selfless - God had nothing to gain.
 - b) Sacrificial God gave his only Son. Jn. 3:16
 - c) Self determined - He initiated love. 1Jn. 4:10
 - d) Sufficient - To call us Children of God. Jn.3:3-5 (tekneon) Jn. 1:12-13
 - e) The world is not astonished nor recognizes us as children of God but religious wisdom!

* The servant is not greater than his Lord.
1Jn. 3:21

- 1) Now we are children of God-
 - a) By faith. Eph. 2:8; Rom.10:9
 - b) By the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:15-17
- 2) Now we are in process - Not yet been revealed what we shall be Phil. 1:6; 2Cor. 3:18
- 3) Now we are waiting to be perfected - When Christ appears we will be like Him. Col.3:4

* Like unto His glorius body. 1Cor. 15:49, 51-53; Phil. 2:13

3:3 The incentive for holy living.

- 1) Now we purify ourselves as evidence of our hope in His return. 1Thes. 4:1-3; Rom. 12:1-2; 1Pet. 1:16
- 2) Hope coming for His church - 1Thess. 4:17; Tit. 2:13; Jn.14:1-3; Col. 3:3-4

* Hope is not disappointed. Rom. 5:2-5

3:4-10 The act of sin and the child of God.

3:4-6 The clarity about sin.

- 1) The person who sin is lawless. vs. 4
 - a) Sin - (harmatia) to miss the mark.
 - b) Lawlessness - Speaks of an attitude of rebellion that sins against God's love.

- 2) Jesus came to take away our sins. vs. 5
 - a) Take away (airo) means to lift up and carry away. Is. 53; Rom. 8:3; 2Cor. 5:21; 1Jn. 2:2
 - b) Jesus was sinless the lamb of God, Who bore our sins. Jn. 1:29
 - c) Those in Jesus do not live in and after sin, being saved.
- 3) The believer doesn't live a life of sin. vs. 6
 - a) The preventative against a habitual life of sin is abiding in Christ. Jn. 15:5
 - b) Whoever sins habitually has not been born again, but remember the context, the Gnostic taught you could be one with God and sin by distinguishing between spirit and flesh.

3:7-10 The clarity about deception.

- 1) Deceive - Literally let no man keep leading you astray, those practicing righteousness are believers. vs. 7
- 2) Those who practice sin belong to the family of Satan. vs. 8
 - a) This doesn't mean possession of demons but lost!. Eph. 2:1-3; 2Tim. 2:26; 2Cor. 4:4; Jn. 8:44
 - b) Satan sinned from the beginning. Is. 14:12-17; Ezk. 28:12-19

- c) The Son of God destroyed the works of Satan in the lives of man by his death.
- d) Destroy – (lluo) to loosen, dissolve.
- e) Being born-again the power of sin is broken. 2Pet. 1:4
- 3) The believer does not live in sin the way he used to. vs. 9
 - a) New desire, potential and purpose in life. vs. 9
 - b) Seed - Divine nature. 2Pet. 1:3-4
* The word. 1Pet. 1:23; Ja. 1:18
 - c) Cannot sin - Habitual practice not perfection. 1Jn. 1:8, 10; 2:1
- 4) You belong to one of two families. vs. 10
 - a) God's pr Satan's.
 - b) There are two tests to reveal our family relation.
 - 1) Moral test - righteousness
 - 2) Social test - love of brethren.

3:11-18 **The love of God and the child of God.**

3:11-12 The clear teaching about love.

- 1) The message is from the beginning indicating the gospel. vs. 11a
 - a) John stated this at the beginning of his letter. 1Jn. 1:1; 2:7, 24
 - b) God also declared this to Israel. Lev. 19:18

- 2) The distinctive mark of believer is agape love for one another. vs. 11b
* Jesus made this clear. Jn. 13:34-35
- 3) The clear contrast is Cain. vs. 12
 - a) Cain - The brother of Able, a prototype of the world.
 - b) Wicked one - (poneros) means evil in active opposition to good. Gen. 4:1-7; Heb. 11:4
 - c) Murder his brother being evil- Matt. 5:21-22
 - d) His brother Able was righteous.

3:13-14 The admonishment about love.

- 1) The believer is not to be surprised at the hatred of the unbeliever. vs. 13
* Jesus said, "It hated Me before it hated you." Jn. 15:18
- 2) This love is evidence we have been transferred from death to life. vs. 14a-b
 - a) The word from (ek) means out of death. Col. 1:13
- 3) The one not loving abides in death. vs. 14c
* The contrasts.
 - a) Sin – Righteousness.
 - b) Hate – Love.
 - c) Death – Life.

3:15-18 The principals about love.

- 1) The one who hates is a murderer, the conclusion they do not have eternal life abiding. vs. 15
 - a) The heart is the problem. Mat. 15:17-19
 - b) Hate is the source of murder.
- 2) Jesus is our example. vs. 16
* Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1Jn.4:10
- 3) Love is more than words. vs. 17
 - a) Goods - Life essentials. Deut. 15:7- 8
 - b) Shuts up - Used of slamming a door.
- 4) Love is verified by deeds that prove it to be true love. vs. 18
 - a) Faith and works. Ja. 2:14-20
 - b) The Good Samaritan. Lk. 10:29-36
 - c) Every Christian needs to do what he or she can, within the means God has enabled them.

3:19-24 **The confidence of the child of God.**

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- 1) By living out agape love we know we are of the truth and have restful hearts before Jesus. vs. 19
 - a) Know - (ginosko) means knowledge by experience.
 - b) Assured - (peitho) means persuaded, tranquilize.
 - 2) God is greater than our own condemnation when we fail. vs. 20
* Heb. 4:14-16; 5:2; Jn. 2:1; Rom. 8:1

- 3) Obedience to love and right relationship results in confidence to speak to God. vs. 21
 - Literally freedom of speech. 1Jn. 2:28; 3:21; 4:17; 5:14
- 4) The freedom to speak is in prayer. vs. 22a
 a) In the name of Jesus. Jn. 16:23-24
 b) Prayer is according to God's will. - 1Jn. 5:14-15
- 5) The freedom of speech comes from being a doer. vs. 22b
 a) Keeping His word.
 b) Doing what is pleasing in His sight, not only action but attitude.
- 6) The summary statement of God's commandment. vs. 23-24
 a) Believe on the name of Jesus Christ. vs. 23a
 b) Love one another as commanded. vs. 23a-b
 c) The one keeping the commandments of Jesus is abiding in Jesus and Jesus in him. vs. 24a-b
 * All it entails, God/man, Saviour/Lord, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Messiah.
 d) We know Jesus abides in us by the Holy Spirit imparted to us. vs. 24c-d
 * The Comforter, another just like Christ.