

10/15/89

1 John 5

John comes to the final chapter of his epistle and once again he makes the three tests of doctrine, love and morality interrelated and interdependent.

5:1-5 The consequences of the born again experience.

5:1 The love for other believers.

- 1) The word believes refers to a believer in context as the consequence of the new birth, not the cause, the perfect tense “has been born”.
 - a) God reveals Himself. Rom. 1:16-17;
1Cor. 2:4; Eph. 2:8-9
 - b) The Christian did not understand to believe, but believed in order to understand by the new birth!
 - c) That Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, God in the flesh.
- 2) The one born again love those born into the family of God. 1Jn. 4:20

5:2 The love for others is a genuine experience and tied to loving God and keeping His commandments.

- 1) Know- (ginosko) means by experience.

- 2) Keep - (tereo) means to attend to carefully, guard.

5:3 The purest motive for obedience is love.

- 1) When the motive is God’s love it is amazing how enjoyable and easy difficult things are.
 - * This doesn't imply no warfare or tension as the next verse clearly shows, faith works by love. Gal. 5:6
- 2) When we yield to God’s love the commandments of God are not burdensome.
 - a) Burdensome – means irksome or heavy.
 - b) My yoke is easy and my burden is light... Matt.11:28-30

5:4 The one overcoming the world.

- 1) The person born of God overcomes the world.
 - a) World - (Kosmos) means system of evil influence in opposition to God
1Jn. 2:15-17
 - b) Whatever - is neuter, emphasizing the power not the person that overcomes.
- 2) The victory that has overcome the world is our faith.
 - * Faith in the New Testament is not something subjective, but objective, faith in Christ.

5:5 The overcomer is the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

- 1) God in the flesh who died as a substitute.
 - a) In the world you shall have tribulation.. Jn. 16:33
 - b) 1Jn. 4:4; Rom. 7:24
- 2) Overcomes – means constantly, but doesn't imply no warfare.
 - * If we are walking in the light, loving one another and obeying the word we are overcoming the evil system of the world! Promise to overcomers. Rev. 2-3

5:6-13 **The witness of God.**

5:6 Jesus came by water, blood and The Holy Spirit.

- 1) Some interpreted water and blood to mean what came forth from His side when pierced. Jn. 19:34-37
- 2) Some the sacrament of baptism and communion. (Luther and Calvin).
- 3) Still others His baptism and death.
 - * I believe this is what John is saying because it would destroy the gnostic argument of Jesus receiving His deity at baptism and leaving Him prior to the cross.
- 4) The third witness is the Spirit of Truth.

- a) Jesus said He could not come unless Jesus went to the Father. Jn.16:7 (Jn. 14-16)
- b) The Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin because it doesn't believe in Jesus.
- c) Of righteousness because He went to the Father and is seen no more.
- d) Of judgement because the prince of the world is judged. Jn.16:8-11
 - 1)) Law required 2-3 witnesses to establish a testimony. Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15
 - 2)) Jesus called witness to baptism, works and the Scriptures Jn. 5

5:7 8a The witness of heaven with earth.

- 1) Verses 7-8a are omitted, due to not being found only in four MSS.
- 2) None being earlier than 14th century.
- 3) Quoted by none of church fathers.
- 4) Erasmus rejected it and challenged anyone to find it, they did so and placed it in his 3rd edition 1522, reluctantly and later omitted it again.
 - * (study of Jn. 1:1; Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4)
- 5) It does not contradict scripture neither is the doctrine of the Trinity solely based on this.

5:8b-c Three agree as one.

- The meaning of the three do not change, they only affirm what has been stated in verse six.

5:9 The witness of God is of more value.

- 1) If men believe witnesses in a court room, God's witness is greater.
- 2) God has given a true testimony of His Son.
 - a) Volume of the book it is written of me... Heb. 10:7
 - b) The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Rev. 19:10e

5:10 The two choice about Jesus.

- 1) He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself by the Holy Spirit.
- 2) He who doesn't believe God's witness has called God a liar by rejecting the witness of His Son.

5:11-12 The testimony of God to the believer.

- 1) God has given us eternal life which is in and through His Son. vs.11
 - a) Life has the article in Greek.
 - b) Marks a distinct quality of life.
 - c) Marks an indefinite quantity of life.
- 2) Marks the Son as the go between life a eternal death. vs. 12

5:13 The last reason recorded for writing the epistle.

- 1) To assure the believer that he had eternal life.
- 2) The gospel was written that believing that He was the Son of God they might have eternal life.

5:14-17 **The assured confidence in prayer.**

5:14-15 The petition of a believer.

- 1) Confidence – means boldness, freedom of speech, courage. Heb. 4:14-16; Jn. 14:14; 16:24
 - * Found four times. 1Jn. 2:28; 4:17 Judgement; 3:21, 5:14 prayer.
- 2) Our confidence is in God, He is faithful and can't lie.
- 3) Our commitment is to His will, it is not an option, but a condition to receive.
 - * The word ask is present subjunctive, continuously asking.

5:15-16 The consciousness awareness that God answers prayer.

- 1) For our personal petitions. vs. 15
 - * Rom. 9:1-3; 10:12-13
- 2) The responsibility to pray for a brother in sin not leading to death. vs. 16a-c
 - * Ja. 5:19-20; 1Pet. 4:7-8; Gal. 6:1-5

- 3) We can pray and he can be restored, but not to death. vs. 16d-e
 * Restriction on prayer.
- a) We are limited in our intercession, to death.
 - b) Jeremiah was told by God not to pray for the people. Jer. 7:16; 11:14; 14:11
- 4) Death is used of the physical and spiritual in Scripture, to whom is John referring?
- a) The epistle is polemic attacking the gnostic heresy so without any question it applies to those brought deceived by denying Jesus as the Christ and Son of God in the flesh.
 - 1) John uses death as spiritual, not physical in his letter.
 - 2) This is apostasy from the faith. Heb. 6:4-6; 10:28-31
 - b) Others say this is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Matt. 12
 - 1) Though that could be part and parcel also the specific context of Matthew is attributing to Satan's power the works of God. Matt. 12
 - d) Finally there are those who say it is a life of sin of the believer who refuses to repent and God takes their life. 1Cor. 5:1-5; 11:30; Acts 5:1
 * Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron. Lev.10:1

5:17 The nature of sin.

- 1) All unrighteousness is sin, it missed the mark perfectio and must be dealt with by confession and repentance because it is lawlessness.
- 2) Sins that the a beleiver commits by their weakness and temptation and not as a habitual life-style result in the breaking of fellowhip with God, not spiritual death.

5:18-21 **The summary of what Christians know to be true.**

5:18 The believer knows he lives for God.

- 1) Those born of God do not live in a life of continuous sin.
- 2) Those born of God Jesus guards and the wicked one (Satan) doesn't touch or grasp him. 1Jn. 4:4

5:19 The believer knows he is a pilgrim and stranger on earth.

- 1) We belong to God.
- 2) We know the entire world system is under the evil influence of Satan. 2Cor. 4:4; 2Tim. 2:26

5:20 The believer knows the truth about God.

- 1) That the Son has come in the flesh.
- 2) That He has given to us understanding in the revelation of His word.
- 3) That we are in the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

4) That Jesus is the true God and eternal life.

5:21 The closing exhortation,

- 1) To little children and endearing term.
- 2) To keep ourselves from idols.
 - a) Like the Temple of Diana.
 - b) Whatever takes the place of God.
- 3) Amen, so be it, affirming the exhortation.