

## The One Anothers of the New Testament - Part 5

1JOHN

### STIMULATE

\*\* At the conclusion of our last study together we asked the following questions:

How can I tell if I am a truly humble person before the Lord? Do I act piously in public and then take off the mask in private? Does this list seem like a welcome friend or a menacing enemy and intruder to my already full agenda?

\*\* Do you recall that list?

1. encourage (non-believers to accept the gospel)
2. stimulate one another to love and good deeds
3. do not slander
4. do not complain
5. confess you sins and pray for one another
6. pray for one another
7. love one another, fervently
8. be hospitable
9. serve (as good stewards)
10. clothe yourself with humility

\*\* How did you respond to the Lord's instruction?

### MOTIVATE

\*\* Over the past four weeks, the Lord has graciously showed us how to live our life to His glory by fulfilling the one another commands found in the New Testament. But what is the driving force behind all that we have learned. What is it that fuels us day by day and will never fail us?

Please join me in **1John, chapter one.**

Opening Prayer

### INVESTIGATE

The Apostle John wrote his gospel around 85 A.D. and in 95 A.D. he wrote the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In between those two, John penned his three epistles. From the city of Ephesus around 90 A.D., John instructs his readers on the black and white principles that guide Christian living.

Here in 1John he is primarily dealing with a cultish attack on the body of Christ know as Gnosticism. From the Greek word "gnostikos", meaning knowledge, this group believed that all matter was evil and that salvation comes through knowledge. They developed a system of spiritual "holier-than-thouness" by saying that their sin in the body was of no consequence (the body being evil) and that their spirit had risen to a higher plain of knowledge and understanding.

To combat this heresy, John penned this first epistle. Let's begin with the first one another command for today found in verse seven, buy reading verses 5-10.

Read passage (V.5-7) (V.8-10)

**V. 6** \*\* Could someone put into their own words what kind of lifestyle is being described in this verse?

Hypocrisy! While claiming to "know" God, the every day "walk" of the individual is in total darkness.

\*\* As the apostle views that hypocritical lifestyle, what is his conclusion?

Those who do so "lie and do not practice the truth"

**V. 7** \*\* The next verse invites all men to enjoy a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. What metaphor is used to describe our daily life?

"...walk in the light"

\*\* Who are we like when this happens to us?

God Himself, "as He Himself is in the light"

\*\* What is the twofold fruit of that real relationship with the Lord God?

1) We have fellowship with one another! Christian to Christian and Christian with God.

2) The blood of Jesus His Son, cleanses us from all sin.  
(Thus true salvation through knowing Christ)

\*\* Let's go a little deeper into this powerful passage and ask, what does it mean to have fellowship?

"koinonia" fellowship or companionship - being of likemindedness, spending time sharing the same convictions and praise for God and His word.

Fellowship with one another as Christians is of great importance which is why the Lord prayed for you and me as recorded in John's gospel, chapter 17 and verses 17 to 21.

Fellowship with God Himself is of great importance in order for us to produce the fruit of righteousness which is why John recorded the Lord's command to abide in Him found in John 15:4-5.

Our next command, which is the last one another command in our series of **The One Another's of the New Testament**, is repeated no less than five times by the apostle. It not only is the most important one, it is the driving force behind all that we have learned as well as the fuel that will never fail us in our day to day lives!

Please join me in **chapter three** and **verse 11** as we begin to look at five different Biblical views of the love of God.

**V.11** \*\* What is the message given to us from John?

"...that we should love one another!"

\*\* How long have we been hearing that message?

"...which you have heard from the beginning"

\*\* When was that?

The beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ on this earth! cf. 1John 1-3

### **View #1 - Love is the beginning!**

**V.23** \*\* What is the foremost commandment given to men?

"That we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ!"

\*\* Why is that so important?

John 6:29 - "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 6:40 - "...that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 3:16 - "...that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 14:6 - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

\*\* What is the inescapable companion to true saving faith in Jesus Christ according to 1John 3:23?

"...and love one another, just as He commanded us." You cannot say that you truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and not follow this explicit command.

### **View #2 - Love is the companion of true saving faith.**

#### **Next in chapter four.**

**V. 7** \*\* What term of endearment is added to the command?

"Beloved" John himself is filled with the love of God for those to whom he is instructing.

\*\* Why should we obey? What is the origin of love?

God Himself! "...for love is from God"

\*\* How many Christians will follow this command?

All of them! "...everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." cf. V.8 "The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

### **View #3 - Love is from God**

**V.11** \*\* By repeating his term of endearment, John attempts to hold his audience as he lays out a most incredible reality. What is the "given" in this verse?

God has "so loved us"!

\*\* How did God so love us? What did He do?

Back up to verse 10 - While we did not love God, He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (covering) for our sins. cf. Romans 5:6-8

**\*\* In the light of such unselfish love and personal sacrifice, what is our obligatory response?**

"we also ought to love one another"

The word ought, "opheilo" lit. "to owe" means that this response is expected, normal and even a joyful obligation on the part of one who has received so much from God in the person of Jesus Christ! cf. Romans 13:8

**View #4 - Love is a debt that we owe.**

**V.12 \*\* Finally, since God is invisible, how can the unsaved world around us see Him?**

"...if we love one another, God abides in us" - Men and women around us will see the love of God in our hearts. They will actually experience our increasing and abounding overflow of love, as they get close enough to us to see God! cf. 1Thessalonians 3:12

**\*\* What is the outcome of our lives if we will obey this command of Christ?**

"His love is perfected in us" The word perfected "teleioo" means; "to bring to an end, to complete, to perfect" and comes from a root word meaning "having reached its end".

When God pours His love into our hearts at the moment of salvation and we then love one another with that love, the unsaved world can see God in us and His love "has reached its end", because He then calls that individual into a saving relationship with Himself and the process starts all over again. To God be the glory! cf. John 13:34-35

**View #5 - Love is perfected in us, to the glory of God!**

## **EXTRICATE**

**\*\* What was the twofold fruit of a real relationship with Jesus Christ?**

1) We have fellowship with one another! Christian to Christian and Christian with God.

2) The blood of Jesus His Son, cleanses us from all sin.  
(Thus true salvation through knowing Christ)

## **DELINEATE**

**\*\* What were the five Biblical views of love that we have learned today?**

View #1 - Love is the beginning!

View #2 - Love is the companion of true saving faith.

View #3 - Love is from God

View #4 - Love is a debt that we owe.

View #5 - Love is perfected in us, to God's glory!

## **EVALUATE**

\*\* Since I know that I belong to Jesus Christ, it is a fair question to ask, "Am I really the loving person that He has created me to be?" What is the number one problem that interferes with my being obedient to the command to love one another?

It is pride, ego, conceit, selfishness, self pity, self, self, self!

### **ACTIVATE**

\*\* Lord help me to truly live out the one anothers that You have taught me over the past four weeks, fueled by the love of God, which never fails, so that I will live for Your glory.

Closing Prayer