

"Good and Bad Love"

1 John 2.7-17

Series - 1 John - "Signs of Christian Life"

God is Light 1.5 - Walk in Light 1.7 - Obey Commands 2.3

COMMAND (NOT Explicit, Referred to) "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

1. Good Love

a. Fresh vs. 7,8a Deut 6.5 John 13.34

OLD OR TIMELESS in God

"COMMAND" - NOT AN ABSTRACT, COLD CODE OF LAW // speed limit sign

"TORAH" - OT LAW - PERSONAL INSTRUCTION - LOVING, HEAVENLY FATHER

Leviticus 19.18 "Love your neighbor as you love yourself"

Matt 22.37-40

Gal 5.14

NEW OR FRESH in Jesus "its truth is seen in him"

ONLY TIME IN HISTORY OF WORLD THE COMMAND WAS LIVED OUT PERFECTLY

Lam 3.22,23

TERTULLIAN - EARLY CHURCH FATHER:

"It is our care for the helpless, our practice of lovingkindness, □
that brands us in the eyes of many of our opponents. 'Look!' they □
say. 'How they love one another! Look how they are prepared to □
die for one another.'"

b. True vs. 8b,9 John 1.17 Romans 13.12

WORD NOT USED HERE AS OPPOSITE OF FALSEHOOD

JOHN USES WORD "TRUE" TO MEAN - THE REAL THING

GENUINE, PERFECT. COMPLETE - ONLY IN CHRIST

John 1.9, 6.32, 15.1

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"Darkness is passing" / TRUE LIGHT ALREADY SHINING

IS THERE LOVE WITHOUT JESUS?? - LIMITED, DISTORTED

FOR REAL LOVE, IN ALL ITS FULLNESS, ONE MUST KNOW THE BELOVED SON

CLAIM OF FALSE TEACHERS WAS INVALIDATED BY LACK OF LOVE

TOUGH LOVE - 36 YR. OLD MOTHER - DIAGNOSED - TERMINAL CANCER

1st Doctor "spend rest of days on beach in Acapulco"

2nd D - perhaps 2 to 4 years' life through grueling chemotherapy

WROTE LETTER TO HER CHILDREN:

"I've chosen to survive for you. This has some horrible costs, □
including pain, loss of my good humor, and moods I won't be able □
to control. But I must try this, if only on the outside chance □
that I might live one minute longer. And that minute could be the □
one you might need me when no one else will do. For this I □
struggle, tooth and nail, so help me God."

c. Obvious vs. 10,11 Prov 4.18,19 Eph 5.8-11

STRONG WORD "HATES" - TOO STRONG? - REAL TEMPTATION

EITHER / OR - LOVE OR HATE - NOT LOVE OR INDIFFERENCE

"I never did anything against him/her"

LOVE = STAYING OUT OF PEOPLE'S WAY - DON'T BOTHER THEM

"We must determine to do everything we can to channel more of □
God's love into the lives of others by our active love towards □
them"

SOME CHRISTIANS - Seek to get closer to God by shut themselves □
off from other people - SAFE FROM INFECTION

EVEN CHURCHES CAN DEVELOP THIS MENTALITY

David Jackman "The more a Christian gets wrapped up in himself, □
concentrating on the cultivation of his own character, or the □
preservation of his own virtue, the less clearly he will see the □
light. He has become self-centered and it will not be long before □
self-love takes over. And the greatest enemy or real love is self □
love."

Robert S. Candlish "A selfish religionist is sure to become □
either morbid or stupid. It is by sympathy and brotherhood that □
the fire of personal Christianity is fanned."

BLESSING - PURPOSE, DIRECTION IN LIFE

LIGHT AND LOVE GO TOGETHER - LACK OF LOVE BLINDS OUR VISION

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NOT COVERING UP YOUR TRACKS - CLEAN CONSCIENCE

2. Bad Love

NEED RIGHT KIND OF LOVE - DANGER: LOVE FOR THE WORLD

def. "world"

John uses word (cosmos) in several ways

John 1.10 "the universe"

1 John 4.17 "life on earth"

1 Jn 5.19 "the whole world is under the control of the evil one"

"LIFE OF HUMAN SOCIETY AS ORGANIZED UNDER THE POWER OF EVIL"

// JOHN'S USE OF THE WORD "DARKNESS"

We speak of: WORLD OF SPORTS, WORLD OF POLITICS

STRONG COMMAND "DO NOT LOVE WORLD" - Can't we love it a little?

WORLD GLITTERS AND SPARKLES AND DRAWS US TOWARD IT

CHURCH - BORING BLACK & WHITE PHOTO / WORLD - MULTICOLORED VIDEO

Satan

2 Cor 4.4 "the evil god of this world"

John 12.31 "the prince of this world"

2 Cor 11.14 "Satan masquerades as an angel of light"

WORLD IN OPEN REBELLION AGAINST GOD

John wants to show - JESUS, NOT THE WORLD, WILL SET US FREE

MADE TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD - GREATEST FREEDOM

Little girl sees goldfish swimming around in glass bowl
WANTS TO SET IT FREE AND POURS BOWL OUT ON LIVING ROOM FLOOR
ONLY FREEDOM TO DIE

a. Intention v. 15 Galat 6.14 Titus 1.15

DOESN'T GOD LOVE THE WORLD? SHOULDN'T WE BE LIKE GOD?

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MATTER OF INTENTION -

GOD LOVES THE WORLD (John 3.16) TO SAVE IT

Alford: "there is a difference between the Holy love of ☐
Redemption and the selfish love of participation"

ONE AIMS - save the sinner / OTHER - share his sin

SIN IS NOT FROM EXPOSURE / IT IS FROM THE HEART

AVOID SIN - not by getting out of the world,
but by getting the world out of us

BEEN IN MANY "SINFUL PLACES"

Mosques, Bars, talking to Prostitutes on Sunset Strip in ☐

Hollywood, African hut of Village witch doctors
AND FELT THE STRONG PRESENCE OF GOD - GONE ARMED IN PRAYER

WE NEED TO BE MORE AFRAID FOR THE WORLD THAN OF THE WORLD

Titus 1.15

COME INTO CHURCH WITHOUT PRAYER - MIND WANDERS - LOVE WANES
COME BEFORE GOD AND NOT REVERENCE HIM AS KING AND LORD

b. Incompatibility v. 16 Matt 6.24 James 4.4

ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE PAGAN WAY OF LIFE

1. Within: Craving James 1.14,15 2 Peter 2.10

DESIRE OF OUR FALLEN AND SINFUL NATURE - FROM WITHIN

BODIES ARE GOOD - MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE - APPETITES ARE GOOD

PROBLEM - SINFUL NATURE DEMANDS A SATISFACTION THAT BREAKS LAW

WE BECOME ADDICTS - SLAVES OF OUR OWN APPETITES

WHETHER - FOOD, DRINK, DRUGS, OR SEX / GOOD THINGS, USE RIGHT

Hunger is good - Gluttony is sinful

Thirst is good - Drunkenness is sinful

Sleep is good - Laziness is sinful

Sex is good - immorality is sinful

David Jackman:

"Those who reject God's instructions regarding the good gift of sex within lifelong marriage imagine that they have set themselves free. They never intend to arrive at a place where meaningful relationships become impossible, where the mechanics of sex take over from any real depth of personal commitment, where love seems to be an empty mocking illusion. It was all intended to be so natural, liberating and beautiful; but the appetite becomes a tiger, and once God's laws are flouted, it begins to maul us until we are destroyed."

THE WORLD CANNOT DELIVER ON ITS PROMISES

LIKE DRINKING SALT WATER - MAKES YOU MORE THIRSTY

2. Without: Lusting

FROM WITHOUT -

Gen 3.6

"THE LOVE OF BEAUTY DIVORCED FROM THE LOVE OF GOODNESS"

WE - LIKE JOHN - LIVE IN PORNOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - INVADES HOMES

Job 31.1

3. Mouth: Boasting² Tim 3.2 James 4.13-16

ONE REASON PEOPLE BUY SO MUCH THEY CANNOT AFFORD
PERSON WHO SEEKS TO IMPRESS EVERYONE WITH THEIR OWN NON-EXISTENT □
IMPORTANCE

PRIDE IS ONE DISEASE WHICH MAKES EVERYONE SICK
EXCEPT THE ONE WHO HAS IS

WE ARE ONLY TEMPORARY STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

James 1.27

Romans 12.2

c. Temporal v. 17,8

1 Cor 7.31

2 Cor 4.18

"ONLY WHAT IS DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST"

ULTIMATE STATISTIC - "ONE OUT OF ONE WILL DIE"

Š"BUT THE MAN/ OR WOMAN/ WHO DOES THE WILL OF GOD LIVES FOREVER"

GOD'S PERFECT WILL WILL NEVER BE THWARTED

JOHN WANTS TO ENCOURAGE THEM - THEY ARE GROWING IN LOVE

3. Growing Love v. 8 "and you"

SURPRISING ADDITION "and you" / Expect to see Love in Jesus

CHRIST LIVES HIS LIFE IN US - BOTH EMBODIED AND EMPOWERS

John's Challenge is the the FALSE TEACHERS / NOT BELIEVERS

6 X's "I write to you" - FULL AND FINAL TESTIMONY

THREE GROUPS - NOT PHYSICAL AGE // NOT PHYSICAL "FATHER"

NOT JUST MEN / BUT WOMEN AND GIRLS AS WELL

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN CHRIST

a. Beginning vs. 12,13c

New Born believers in Jesus Christ

"ON ACCOUNT OF HIS NAME" Semitic culture / NAME REFERS TO NATURE

Acts 4.12

E.G. "YOU ARE SAVED BECAUSE OF WHAT KIND OF GOD HE IS"

LOVING, POWERFUL, FORGIVING, JUST

EARLIEST CONSCIOUS EXPERIENCES OF SALVATION

HAVE 1) FORGIVENESS 2) FATHER

Rom 8.15,16

b. Maturing vs. 13a, 14a Coloss 1.28

"possess the depth and stability of ripe Christian experience"

Time has passed since FIRST DAYS OF SALVATION

PROGRESSED IN FAITH INTO A DEEP COMMUNION WITH GOD

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD DEEPENS "Him who is from the beginning"

KNOWN THAT JESUS IS TRULY GOD - NOT CREATED BEING

"they are already consciously living in eternity"

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD EXPERIENCED BY MOSES

Psalm 90.1-4

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD WE ALL SHOULD STRIVE FOR

coloss

PAUL'S DESIRE / GOD'S DESIRE / WE ALL GROW INTO MATURITY

c. Developing vs. 13b,14b

BETWEEN THE CHILDREN AND THE FATHERS

Strong young believers, victorious in spiritual warfare

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOT JUST -

FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND FELLOWSHIP WITH FATHER

ALSO, FIGHTING THE ENEMY "the evil one"

"You have overcome" - BECAUSE YOU ARE SO STRONG?

Isa 40.30,31

"BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG, AND THE WORD OF GOD LIVES IN YOU"

Psalm 119.9,11

Acts 20.32

JOHN COUNTERS THE PROBLEMS OF HIS READERS WITH GOD'S WORD

ULTIMATE WEAPON AGAINST ERROR IS GOD'S TRUTH

IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD - SERMONS - EVEN LONG ONES

PRESIDENT CLINTON - ONE HOUR - FALSE ECONOMIC HOPE

America will not recover until it returns to God's word

Contra - Abortion and Homosexuality

"Ichabod" written all over his Presidency