

So That You May Know

An Expositional Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 14- The Second Line **1John 3:11-18**

121. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 5

WAOY Wednesday 12/12/07

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Distinction Between Love and Hate". So, let's read **1John 3:11-18** again together:

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over verse 12- so let's read that verse again together:

not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over just what made

Cain's offering to be considered by God to be evil. And in looking at this- we saw that when we give God an offering- that that is worship.

We also studied that there is a common belief today that we have the right and the prerogative to worship God just as we are in whatever way we choose at whatever time we choose and that is simply not true.

God has always chosen the way that we are to worship Him. Under the Law- worship was an elaborate system of very detailed rituals and complicated offerings complete with animal sacrifices.

Anyone who for any reason tried to circumvent those rituals or who tried to leave one of them out or who tried to approach God in any other way other than the one single way in which God has laid out was met with death. In **Leviticus 10**- the two sons of Aaron- Nadab and Abihu- were killed by God because they offered strange incense that God did not authorize.

We must remember dear friends that worship is a creation of God. Man did not create worship nor did Man make it up. Worship of God came down from God to Man and has to do with God's creation humbly and graciously submitting to the grandeur and the wonder and the majesty and the glory of God. So worship involves much more than the song service in Church on Sunday. Worship is how we live; how we conduct our lives; how we raise our children; and how we spend our money; how we speak and what we believe.

For example- when I spend hours and hours all alone late at night studying Gods' precious Word- I am worshipping God- because I deem God's Word worthy of my study and I deem God worthy of me getting the Gospel right- so I have bowed my knees to the command of Scripture which tells me to study to show myself approved.

Every sermon that I preach; every Bible Study that I prepare is worship- they are my offering to my God- and since that is true- my offering must be acceptable to God- it must be pleasing to Him; it must according to His standard; it must glorify and honor Him. It is entirely irrelevant to me that my sermons or my Bible Studies meet Man's approval- my sermons and my studies are my offerings to God- so they must be true; they must be accurate; and they must be right. So whatever time that it takes for me to make sure that what I am preaching and teaching is according to God's Word- however much effort I put into that sermon or study is only my reasonable service-

because God is worthy that I accurately and fully portray Him in what I teach and that I give to Him and offering that meets His approval.

It is a pagan concept, brothers and sisters, that says that we can go to God anyway we want to anytime we want to and give God whatever we deem to be good and that He should be satisfied that we spend any time with Him at all. That is not a Christian concept; it is not a Biblical concept- but a pagan concept.

When Adam sinned- Adam tried to cover his own nakedness with a fig leaf. He knew that he was wrong and he knew that he had sinned and he was ashamed of his nakedness- so Adam took it upon himself to try to fix his own problem. But what does the Bible say? Let's read **Genesis 3:21:**

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Now here God Himself made Adam and Eve garments of skins and clothed them. So it wasn't enough that Adam had already tried to cover his *own* nakedness- No, God would have none of that. Adam's feeble attempt at fixing his own problem was not good enough for God. God had to fix Man's problem. You see, Man is not able- he is incapable of covering his own sins. God must cover our sins or else our sins will not be properly covered.

Well, how did God cover Man's nakedness? God killed animals and God made garments from their skins. In other words God shed blood in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and his wife. And this Act by God Himself established the correct manner in which human beings after the Fall can approach God. Fallen, sinful Man cannot approach unto God except there be the shedding of Blood. The payment for sin is that blood must be shed and without shedding blood there is no remission from sin. And this Principle is what is called a universal principle in that this principle is binding upon every single human being on earth under every culture who lives in every nation for all time.

No one can approach unto God without first blood being shed because all men are sinful. For anyone to try to approach God without shedding blood is to attempt to rebel against God's Divine Order of how Redemption works- and God will not receive such an offering.

And Adam knew this. And after this event- every human on earth knew that without shedding blood- there is no remission of sin. And Cain knew this and yet Cain tried to circumvent God's ordained method of redemption by offering a bloodless offering.

So, the fact that even though Cain knew what God required- he offered a strange offering to the Lord only serves to prove that Cain was evil in his heart and expected God to accept him just like he was. This is the very first recorded instance of what is called a "Man centered" view of God.

A "Man centered" view of God says that God exists for the pleasure and betterment of Man and that all that God does in the earth is whatever will make Man better; higher; more important; and more fulfilled. In this view- if Man desires something- then it is God's job to make sure that that happens. So a "Man centered" view of God teaches that all glory and all; honor and all praise should go to Man and that whatever gives Man the utmost in those things is good- even if that is to the detriment of God.

This view teaches that if Man craves something or prays for something- God should immediately jump to attention and do whatever is on the heart of his wonderful creation- Man. So the apex of a "Man centered" view of God is the "self" of Man and thus all teaching and all energy of those who buy into this view is centered around building up and promoting concepts like "self" esteem; "self" love; "self" fulfillment; "self" centeredness; and "self" help.

This view teaches that God delights in allowing Man to fulfill all his dreams and that God is there simply to give to Man the power and the ability that he needs to live life in any way that will bring honor and praise and glory to Man.

A "Man centered" view of God is the classic definition of idolatry in that it has forced God from the throne and places Man in the center and has Man as the object and the goal of all that is done or created.

Now the opposite of a "Man centered" view of God is a "God centered" view of Man. In this view- Man exists to know and love and serve and obey and enjoy God. In this view- God is at the center and the whole duty of Man is to know and love God in fullness and to enjoy God forever. So a "God centered" view of Man teaches that all glory and all honor and all praise goes to God and to God alone and thus *anything*

that allows for God to be exalted and honored is good- even if that thing is detrimental to Man.

This view teaches that Man has to learn how to pray in accordance with the already established Will of God. This view says that Man exists to strain and struggle in order to listen for the Voice of God so that he may spring into action at the slightest beckon call of God to do God's bidding- regardless of the personal consequences.

And the apex of a "God centered" view of Man is the Glory of God- and so all teaching that is based upon this view centers around concepts like dying to self; mortifying the deeds of the body; crucifying the flesh; humble submission; and a total abandonment of self.

And those who buy into this view do all that they do; they say all that they say; they live as they live and believe what they believe in order that God will receive all glory and all praise and all honor.

Now while many today view this as being barbaric or harsh or cruel or legalistic or even pagan- a God centered view of Man is nothing more than Biblical Christianity and correctly places God on the throne and allows man the high privilege of bowing before Him.

Cain had a "Man centered" view of God and so was very angry at God when God did not receive his offering. This shows us the difference in the way that the heart of lost and saved people operates.

You see, when saved people are rebuked by God and corrected- they rejoice. And the reason why they rejoice is not because they enjoyed the chastisement of God- nobody likes a spanking- but because their goal in life is to please the Lord and bring glory to His Name. So when they find out that that what they are doing is not pleasing to the Lord; or that what they are doing does not bring glory to God- they rejoice that God loved them so much that He corrected them so that they can repent and change and go on to please and glorify God.

But the same correction that causes a saved person to rejoice causes a lost person to be angry. And the reason that godly correction causes anger in the heart of a lost person is because he lives to be well thought of and correction is an insult to his dignity and pride. So when a lost person finds out that what he is doing does not bring glory to God or that what he is doing does not please the Lord- he gets angry with God for exposing his fault. He then makes statements like, "*God is too hard*" or "*God should be satisfied with whatever I choose to give Him*" or "*I tried and it didn't work- you know- you just can't please this God!*"

A lost person views God's correction as an affront to his value and thus he responds with anger. And that's not only because he is looking at it wrong- it is because his heart is corrupt and he is not born from above.

So the net result is that godly correction makes the heart of saved person to be even more pliable and more humble and more easy to correct while that very same godly correction makes the heart of a lost person that much harder.

Cain was so angry with God that he murdered his own brother. Cain's heart was so hardened by Gods' rebuke that he not only viewed God to be unfair- but he also viewed Abel as being a goody two shoes whose very life exposed Cain's own unrighteous deeds. And that meant that Abel had to die.

Beloved, John warns us all here to not be like Cain in this verse and we need to take heed to our own hearts lest we possess a wicked heart like Cain and despise God's correction and bring to God an offering that God didn't approve and then despise the brother who does serve God correctly.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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