

So That You May Know

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

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

125. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 9

WAOY Wednesday 12/19/07

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 this is the ninth broadcast which deals with the distinction that John draws between true, genuine, Biblical love and hate in these eight verses. And on the last broadcast- we were looking very carefully at verses 14 & 15 –so let's read those two verses again:

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.

John is teaching here that if we “hate” the brethren- that we are equated here with being a murderer like unto Cain and then John gives us the zinger in the last part of verse 15 when he said:

... and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

So we must all agree that this is a real serious subject. Now as I taught earlier- most of us assume that the word, “hate” is used here to denote animosity toward another person or that we may despise another brother and since most of us do not despise the brethren and since most of us do not wish any harm to anyone else- we assume that this verse does not apply to us. And on the last broadcast- I was showing you that to automatically assume that could be wrong.

It is true that the word that was translated into English in this verse as “hate” *does* mean to despise; it does mean to have animosity toward someone else. That is true. But that is not all that this word means.

It is also true that this very same word has a deeper meaning. This word also means that you simply don’t care. To lose interest in a brother or to simply not care about another person who has been washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ is to “hate” them in a biblical sense- and John says here that we do not have the right to do that.

We have been joined at the hip to all of those who have been saved by Grace through Faith and as such- we are united together with those people forever. We are commanded over and over in Scripture to love them and to care for them and to pray for them and to encourage them and to exhort them and to rebuke them and to be united with them and to be accountable to them and with them. This is so true and this is so important a Truth that John teaches that our relationship with God is measured by our relationship to those who belong to God. And as I have said before- there is no such thing as anyone being in right standing with God if they are at odds with their brothers and sisters in Christ. To love God is to love the brethren and for anyone to think that you can we can have ought in our heart toward another brother or sister and still be in right standing with God only proves how deceived human beings can get.

And part of that ongoing godly love that all of those in the Church shows to one another is the issue of Church Discipline.

All that Church Discipline really is- is you and I loving the brethren with more than lip service. Church Discipline teaches that we are responsible for each other in the same way that a family is responsible for each other. That we love each other enough to go after a brother or sister when they fall into sin.

The goal of Church Discipline is to restore a sinning brother or sister. Period. Church Discipline is carried out with the hope that a Covenant member of the Household of Faith who has fallen into sin will see the error of his way and repent. Church Discipline is not about the leaders of the Church running other people's lives or dictating to them what they can or cannot do or think or believe or say. Church Discipline is simply a manifestation of love and is an acknowledgement that to be saved means something and that to belong to the Church of Jesus Christ demands of us.

Now even though this is not a popular teaching today- especially in modern America- the Truth is that there are no Lone Rangers in the Spirit. Nobody is a law unto himself. Everybody who is saved is accountable to somebody else on earth besides Jesus. Every single person who has been Blood Washed is in union with everybody else who has been Blood washed. We do not belong to ourselves; we do not have the right or the authority to live anyway that we choose; and we do not have the power to do what is right in our own eyes. We are saved by Christ and he has placed us in the Church and He has joined us together with other believer and He tells us how to live and how to carry out our lives. Let's read what the Apostle Paul taught about this in **2 Corinthians 5:14&15:**

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Paul says here in verse 14 that the Love of Christ controls us. Now the word, "control" by definition is talking about restraint; restrictions; limitations; and boundaries. And this word is best understood by thinking of a bit that is placed in a horse's mouth. Because the bit is in

his mouth- the horse is not free to go wherever he wishes to go; the horse is not free to do as he pleases- because the bit constrains him. In this case- the bit is not the brute force of the rider- but the bit that constrains us or that limits our behavior or that sets boundaries for us is the Love of Jesus Christ.

Now just who is controlled by the Love of Christ? Well, certainly not the lost soul. The unregenerate sinner is not controlled at all by the Love of Jesus Christ. He is free to live anyway that he chooses- because he does not belong to Jesus. Now to be sure- there is a final day of reckoning for that lost soul- whereby God will judge him based upon whatever he did in this life- but as far as being controlled by Christ's Love- he is not.

Also notice that we are controlled- not by our love for Christ- but for Christ's Love for us- He is the One Who controls us. So our being controlled is not the result of our own will power.

Now notice in verse 15 what this controlling of Christ's Love for us and in us does to us. Paul said that as a direct result of being controlled or being limited or being unable to do as we please but because we are controlled by the Love of Jesus Christ- we no longer live to ourselves- but we live for Him- Who died and rose again.

So what Paul is saying here is that precisely because we are saved- we have lost the authority over our own lives and we now live our lives to the Glory of God. Part of that Glory is that we love one another and that we are held accountable to each other.

So the bottom line is that this notion that as saved people we are free to live as we see fit and we are free to follow the dictates of our own hearts- no matter where those dictates lead us- is simply not true and very ungodly.

Part and parcel to being redeemed then is that we are joined together forever into one Body and since that is true- we cannot disjoint ourselves simply because we want to and we cannot live as though we are still separated. For any saved person to get into a place where they no longer care about another brother or where they believe that what another brother does is not his business is simply not a concept that can be found in Scripture.

God chose us; God called us; God drew us; God washed our sins away; God imputed His Own Righteousness to us; God adopted us into His Body- the Church and since God has done all of that- we have the duty

and the responsibility and the obligation and the great joy and privilege to love one another and to care about each other fervently.

So because we are joined- we are one and because we are one what each of us does affects the other. If I drift off into sin- then that affects all of those to whom I am joined- as well as it reflects on my Lord.

We all have been told that the reason that some do not come to Church is because of the great amount of hypocrites that go to Church. Now I realize that most of the time that is just an excuse because there are hypocrites at Wal- Mart too but I notice that that doesn't stop these people from going there- but the point is that when a member of the Church does not behave in a godly manner- it does reflect on the entire Church.

For example- the Scriptures put forth a very standard of behavior that is expected from those who lead in the Church. So regardless of how wise someone may be or how spiritual someone may be or how well he can preach or well he can speak or pray- if that person does not meet up to those Biblical requirements- he cannot lead in the Church.

Now those requirements are not in the Bible simply to make people feel bad- but they reflect the concept that God expects much out of those who lead other people. And if you agree with that- then you must also agree that while the requirements are not nearly as stringent- there are Biblical requirements on all of the members- not just on those who lead.

When a brother falls- we have a solemn duty to do whatever we can to help bring that fellow laborer back into right standing- and that is our business.

But having said that- we need to know that there is a right way and a wrong way to do this and so Jesus Christ Himself was very careful to spell out all the details of this process of restoration that we call Church Discipline and it is recorded for us in **Matthew 18**. So Lord willing, over the next several broadcasts- we will go into this issue to see just how we are to manifest our love for one another by guarding each other's souls and by holding each other accountable to Jesus Christ.

So we all need to examine our hearts to see if we really and truly love each other so that we will not get into a place where we simply no longer care.

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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