

REVIEW WEEK 1 JOHN 1:1-10: CONFESSION IS THE PATHWAY TO INTIMACY WITH GOD

REVIEW WEEK 2 1 JOHN 2:1-6: OBEDIENCE ASSURES INTIMACY WITH GOD

CENTRAL IDEA FOR 1 JOHN 2:7-14: INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER ENABLES US TO LOVE AND ENJOY INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS

As a child one the earliest truths that I can recall is that Jesus Loves Me, yes I know for the Bible tells me so. What a great truth, but if we stop at Jesus loves me, then we are only scratching the surface of God’s amazing love. Yes, Jesus loves me, but this love extends to all of humanity, especially those who are His children. This is the heartbeat of this selection of the text today. We love the Father because He first loved us. Since this love has been shared with us, it should be shown to others. What is the result of love a shared? A love shared points back to the source of our love and the source of our life, Jesus. When we truly experience the love of Father, how can we not help but love others? Living Hope Bryan says its mission is to: Love God, Love People. Is this what we believe today? Is this what overflows out of our love relationship with Him? The Apostle John is asking these same questions to this body of believers that love is evidence of fellowship with the Father

This morning we will see together...

1. A Love that is Timeless in its Message
2. A Love that Reveals our Hearts
3. A Love that Encourages Confident Living

I. A Love that is Timeless in its Message (vs. 7-8)

(v.7) *Dear friends, I am not writing a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This command is the message you have heard.* The Apostle John again begins with words of affection signifying the heart of his message. John makes his message **CLEAR**, in order to bring clarity to this group of confused believers. Remember, a new teaching had surfaced called Gnosticism which was circling the region and the churches causing doubt and confusion among many believers. John establishes that what he is sharing **IS NOT NEW REVELATION, NOT NEW TEACHING, NOT SOMETHING THAT HE HAS CONCOCTED OR INVENTED**, but this something which is they have heard before and have experienced already.

1. *“An old one”* – This is referring to the Law of Love which is introduced in the OT, *Lev. 19:18, “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” Deut. 6:5 “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

2. *“Which you have had since the beginning”* – John is referring to the beginning of their relationship with God. Jesus continually reiterated the teaching of love which is seen all throughout the Gospels. *John 13: 34-35“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

*John goes” OLD SCHOOL” and states everything that you need is at your disposal. It was first revealed through the Law and secondly through the teachings of Jesus in which you have trusted. There is **NO NEW REVELATION** or **NEW TEACHING** that is needed. The message of the Bible **IS NOT TRENDY (Like the Culture: Fashion or Electronics) IT’S TIMELESS**. * We can trust in the unchanging timeless truth of the Bible.

(v.8) *Yet I am writing to you a new command; its truth is in Him and in you,*

1. At first glance this verse seems to contradict the previous verse, but John uses this seeming contradiction to further bring clarity to this matter. In essence what John is saying is you have **HEARD** the Law of Love, but now you can **SEE** love, in the person of Jesus and that is what is new. Jesus **PERSONIFIES** and **EXEMPLIFIES** this love, which enables us to display this love in our lives.

(v.8)- *because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.* The true light here is Jesus, *John 8:12, “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* John’s forecast is this, the light of Christ has dispelled and defeated the darkness. Because of this forecast we have **NEW LIFE** and a **NEW LOVE**

Colossians 1:13, “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”

Victory has been obtained, the True light of Christ is the evidence of that.

II. A Love that Reveals Our Hearts (vs.9-11)

(v.9) *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother or sister is still in the darkness.* John addresses their words by putting their relationships with fellow believers under the microscope. The words brother or sister refer to “believers.” If we say that the light of Christ has penetrated our hearts and changed our lives then hate is not an option. The word “hates” is in the present tense implying an ongoing activity. In order to better understand what hate is, we also need to determine what hate is not. **HATE IS NOT: OUTBURSTS OF ANGER, BEING IRRITATED, OR ANNOYED. HATE IS AN ATTITUDE THAT LEADS TO A HABIT.** If this is an ongoing habit in your life, then you are in the darkness, meaning you are not what you say you are, a child of God.

(v.10) *Anyone who loves their brother or sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble*

If you love your brother or sister (believers) you are in the light, meaning you are a child of God. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER?** We need to love our brother or sister not only when it’s easy, but when it’s hard. Loving a brother or sister when it’s hard shows a genuine love. When I married Heidi I made vows before God and man that I would love her for better or worse, in sickness and health, for richer or poorer, to death us do part. If I truly love Heidi, my love for her will overcome anything we face. And so it should be for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We have genuine concern for them which speaks to the second half of this verse, we will not do anything to point them to sin or to fall into sin (to stumble).

(v.11) *But anyone who hates his brother or sister is in darkness and walks around in darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness had blinded them.* Walking in darkness leaves us feeling helpless because we are unaware of our surroundings. We have an absence of peace, an absence of love, an absence of direction. When you walk in darkness you subject yourself to the possibility of being hurt. People hate often because they have been hurt. They allowed the darkness (sin) to blind them.

III. A Love that Encourages Confident Living (vs. 12-14)

John is writing to (3) different groups of believers who are different places in their spiritual maturity.

(v.12) *I am writing to you, dear children because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.* (v.14a) *I write to you, dear children because you know the Father.*

The term “dear children” is an affectionate term, meaning “born ones” in (v.12) Here John addresses all of those who are children of God. In (v.14) John says the same thing but the word “children” carries a different meaning “young children” which points to those who are young in the faith. He reminds them that they have been forgiven, by the account of His name or for His name’s sake. They are not forgiven because they have earned it or deserve, but because this speaks to the very character of God. He forgives sinners because He is loving, because He is gracious, and because it brings Him glory. **WE NEED TO TRUST AND BE ENCOURAGED IN THE CHARACTER OF GOD’S NAME.**

(v.13a) *I am writing to fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning;* (v.14b) *I write to you, fathers because you know him who is from the beginning,*

This is addressed to those who are mature in their faith. The word know here means “to come to know by knowledge, to come to know” These believers know the source of truth, the source of whom they worship, and the results it produces. These believers have persevered and progressed in the faith because of the intimate relationship with Him. John says, you know God because He was there in the beginning and He is still an active part of your life. **A CONSISTENT INTIMATE LOVE REALATIONSHIP WITH GOD HELPS US WALK WITH SECURITY.**

(v.13b) *I am writing to you, young men because you have overcome the evil one ;* (v.14c) *I write to you, young men because you are strong and the word of God lives, and you have overcome the evil one.* This addressed to those who have progressed in faith and have a strong understanding of truth. They are able to discern truth from error. Satan will tempt with sin, more specifically the means of false teaching. **WALK IN CONFIDENCE BECAUSE VICTORIOUS LIVING IS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT**

1 Timothy 4:1-2- The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

Are we living in the light of this truth? Does our life reflect love in our relationships with others? Are we walking in confidence of who we belong too?