

(1 John 2:12-17)
“Family Matters”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Family Matters.”
 - (1 John 2:12-17) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

WELL... SO FAR... WE'VE LEARNED.

- That the Christian life is NOT to be lived in isolation...
 - But in FELLOWSHIP with God & other believers.

WE'VE LEARNED...

- That *abiding* in Christ means...
 - We believe God's truth & we obey God's truth...
 - And it's demonstrated as we love others.

WE'VE LEARNED...

- That if we break fellowship...
 - It's because we're respond to lies...
 - Which is a departure from faith...
 - OR revealing the individual doesn't have faith.

TRACK WITH ME CHURCH...

- John taught the believers... the way back into fellowship...
 - Is always thru Jesus.
- He explained that fellowship is maintained:
 - 1) Thru the “*advocacy*” of Christ... (intercession).
 - 2) Thru the “*propitiation*” of Christ... (His death on the cross).
 - 3) Thru the “*confession*” of sin to Christ who forgives & cleanses.

AND... WHILE ALL OF THIS WAS WRITTEN...

- To deepen the spiritual life of the church.
- (1st John) is a book of practical proofs to see if we're in the faith.

IN OTHER WORDS...

- It's NOT what a person says that counts...
 - But what a person does that demonstrates... they belong to Jesus.

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LET’S MAKE SURE...

- We have the right tone... before we go on.

LISTEN...

- Jesus is coming back for the church at any time now.
 - But YOUR life might be over sooner.

SO... THE URGENCY...

- For straight forward truths... help us evaluate where we’re at.

(2 Cor. 13:5) NLT

“Examine yourself to see if your faith is genuine...”

WE LIVE IN AN AGE...

- Where many people know about Christ & claim to be saved...
 - But their lives don’t reflect faith.
- AND John has been teaching the church...
 - That profession ... without proof... **IS A LIE!**

NOW... TODAY...

- We see the family make up & get a strong warning.

~STUDY~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

IDEA #1 – FAMILY MAKE UP: (vv.12-14)

(v.12)...

- “*Little children*” this speaks to the whole family of faith (Grk. *teknia*).
 - The idea is **born ones** AND... it’s NOT age specific.
 - (The whole church is safe in Jesus)

(vv.13-14) MOVES INTO THREE CATEGORIES IN THE FAMILY:

- 1) *Fathers* = This is a mature believer.
- 2) *Young Men* = Maturing & using the word of God effectively.
- 3) *Children* = New to the faith... more literally “*immature ones.*”

THINK OF IT LIKE THIS...

The IMMATURE BELIEVER (*little children*)...

- Is new to the faith and trying to figure out what *right & wrong* is.

* (Is it wrong to drink alcohol / smoke weed / sleep with my girlfriend / music).

The GROWING BELIEVER (*young men*)...

- Has experienced freedom & victory over sin...
 - And the question being asked turns to... *is this good or bad*.

*(All things are lawful... but not all things are profitable).

The MATURE BELIEVER (*fathers*)...

- Asks... “*Is this the will of God for my life right now?*”

(Eph. 5:17) NKJV

“*Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*”

IDEA #2 – FAMILY DIRECTION: (vv.15-17)

(vv.15-17)

- Continues the pattern of thought...
 - With strong instructions for the Christian...
 - Over three areas:
 - 1) Lust of the flesh
 - 2) Lust of the eyes
 - 3) Pride of life

BASIC DEFINITIONS:

- 1) *Lust of the flesh* = Gratification of my senses in a way that ***contradicts faith in God***.
- 2) *Lust of the eyes* = A cravings triggered by what I see. It goes beyond what God has given me – ***leads away from faith in God***.

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- 3) *Pride of life* = Exaggerated sense of self-importance. Often seen in taking unnecessary risks... maybe even using the word of God out of context to justify bad behavior. In other words... it ***twists faith in God***.

ALL of these are all spiritually toxic...

- And used by Satan... to get us outside the will of God for our lives!

FLIP TO (Matt. 4)

Satan came to Jesus at His weakest human point...

- He seduced a natural need (hunger) and wanted Jesus to satisfy it...
 - In a way that was outside of the Father's will.

(Matt. 4:3-4)

Temptation that ***contradicts faith in God***.

- *Lust of the flesh* (temporary cravings).

(Matt 4:5-7)

Temptation with a sense of self-importance as Satan ***twists the words of faith***.

- Taking the word of God out of context to support my agenda!
 - *Pride of life*

(Matt 4:8-10)

Temptation for passing pleasure that leads believers ***away from faith in God***

- *Lust of the eyes*

HERE'S THE POINT...

- John was addressing the church with general truths...
 - To ensure that the family of faith...
 - Was free from common pitfalls.

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO DISTRIBUTE...

- The grace of God over your life...