

(1 John 2:3-11)
“The Love test”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “The Love Test.”
 - READ (1 John 2:3-11) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

WELL... AS WE LEARNED LAST TIME.

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

YET... WE ALL KNOW THIS CAN BE HARD...

- Because of sin.

THAT'S WHY...

- John explained how fellowship is maintained:
 - 1) Thru the “*advocacy*” of Christ...
 - 2) Thru the “*propitiation*” of Christ!

SO... (1st John) WAS WRITTEN...

- To deepen the spiritual life of the church...
 - And TO guard against the watering down of Biblical truths!

CHURCH... GOD DESIRES...

- That we would submit under His love & be feed.

(Jer. 3:15) NLT

*“I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.”*

JOHN'S GIVING **THE** FOUNDATIONAL...

- Test of what genuine Christian fellowship looks like...
 - Thru **doctrine** = the scriptures.
 - And thru **morals** = which is the application of truth!
- John loved the church...
 - And he wanted them to be health & maturity!
 - That their lives would have purpose & be full of joy.

~ STUDY ~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TODAY:

IDEA #1 – TEST OF SCRIPTURE: (vv.3-6)

IN (v.3) *The Test Stated*

NASB – “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

THE IDEA OF commandments HERE...

- Speaks to that which is universally & ethically known in the Church.

JESUS WAS QUESTIONED...

- By a scribe in (Mark 12:29-31) about the greatest commandment.
 - And He answered love God & love your Neighbor.

GOD’S NOT LOOKING TO BE IN...

- A mechanical relationship with you.
 - But He has given you a way to live!

IN OTHER WORDS...

- If you’re part of the family of God...
 - Then here’s how you’re to live!

AGAIN (v.3) *The Test Stated*.

- Walking IN God’s word... which points us to a life of love.

NOW... (vv.4-5) *The Test Applied*

(v.4) NLT

“If someone claims, ‘I know God,’ but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.”

“Liar” = Literally:

- a) One who breaks faith OR...
- b) One who is false & faithless.

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GANG...

- Understand what he's saying.
 - We're NOT being directed to a set of religious standards.

RATHER...

- We're being called in... TO relational standards...
 - That please the one who saved us.
- You're NOT going to dismiss what He says & live in opposition...
 - To what He teaches you...
 - Unless you're a “Liar”
 - a) One who breaks faith.
 - b) One who is false & faithless.

IF CHRIST IS ALIVE IN YOU...

- Then you'll want to be filled with His ways!

(v.6) *Test Example*

PASTORS GET SUCH A BAD WRAP...

- Because they teach over-and-over...
 - About prayer, service, tithing, faithfulness...
 - Bible reading & staying away from vices.

BUT THE ONLY WAY...

- To grow as a follower of Jesus...
 - Is by walking out the simple things Jesus did & taught (v.6).
 - And the repetition of those truths keep us from drifting!

OK...

- Let's dive a little deeper for a moment.

IDEA #2 – UNDERSTANDING THE COMMANDMENTS: (vv.7-8)

JOHN IS REITERATING...

- The commandment that was present in the OT & NT – *Love*!
- God directs our steps in the relational matters of life...
 - Because He wants us to love Him & our fellow human being.

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THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY...

- (2 Peter 3:1-2) NKJV.

GOD’S MORAL PRINCIPLES....

- Are expressed in the 10-Commandments (Ex. 20)...
 - In the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5)...
 - In the Epistles of Paul (Rom 13)...
 - And the letters from John (1 John).

EACH MORAL COMMANDMENT...

- Speaks to things that destroy love.

FIVE EXAMPLES:

- 1) Lust leads to adultery.
- 2) Anger leads to murder.
- 3) Stealing calls into question God’s provisions...
 - 1st by robbing God (tithes)
 - 2nd by defrauding all others (employers / people)
- 4) Lying... is speaking a deliberate falsehood...
 - To others (1:6) / to self (1:8) / to God (1:10).
- 5) Coveting is taking pleasure from what is not yours...
 - (Ex. 20:17) your neighbors house / wife / or possessions.

Coveting is one of the commandments that address the inner person.

- At its root, *coveting* is the result of *envy*, which leads to worse sins.

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, that lust in the heart...

- Is as harmful as committing adultery (Matt. 5:28).

So, envy goes beyond casting a glance...

- At your neighbor’s house / spouse / or possessions.

Envy produces sinful feelings of resentment and hatred...

- For the person who has what you want.
 - AND it grows into resentment against God:

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“Why can't I have what they have?”
“Why can't my life be like theirs?”

IDEA #3 – WALKING IN LOVE: (vv.9-11)

(v.9) A person that has not been born again...

- Demonstrates they don't know God because they lack love!

JOHN TEACHES...

- The real manifestation of God is seen thru the fruit of LOVE.
 - We can do all the right things and have NOT love...
 - And it profits us nothing (1 Cor. 13:3).

FLIP TO (1 Cor 13:4-7) NLT

- Shows us HOW & WHERE God produces the fruit of love...
 - In the believers life.

1st...

- God's word works in our emotions and produces love (vv.4-5).
 - (I'm able to avoid toxic emotions.)

2nd...

- God's word works in our minds and produces love (v.6).
 - (I celebrate truth NOT bad behavior.)

3rd ...

- God's word works in our commitments and produces love (v.7).
 - (I'm committed & dependable because of love.)

~ IN CLOSING ~

We grow in love by allowing God's word to **wash over our:**

- FEELINGS
- THINKING
- ACTIONS