

(1 John 3:11-24)
“Counterfeit or Genuine” – Part #2

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Counterfeit or Genuine” – Part #2**
 - (1 John 3:11-24) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

NOW...

- In chapters 1 & 2... John focused on the test of “fellowship.”
 - Because the **talk** of believers...
 - Was NOT matching the **lives** they were living.

AND... IN THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THIS BOOK...

- Counterfeit Christians were trying to convince genuine Christians...
 - That a person... could be saved and still practice sin...
 - By walking contrary to God.

SO... JOHN...

- Is grounding the church with basic truths.

We've learned that when a person SAYS they're a Christian...

- It's biblically sound to EXPECT FRUIT (evidence to what they claim).
- However, if their life does not reflect Jesus...
 - We don't close our eyes in ignorance.
 - Rather we understand the person is lying!

We've learned that biblical fellowship is seen...

- In a life characterized by “*doing*” not just “*saying*.”
 - It's an active faith NOT a said faith – (James 1:22-27) NLT.

AND FINALLY...

We've learned that genuine believers are people...

- Who have accepted God's word.
- Who are no longer in love with the “*wants*” of the world.
- Who are growing in the faith.

~ STUDY ~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND:

IDEA #1 – WE’VE HEARD THIS BEFORE: (vv.11-15)

cp. (1 John 2:7-8) John repeatedly says... *You’ve already heard this.*

- Yet... as the aged Apostle... he tells them...
 - To living out the message Jesus gave.
 - **Love each other!**

CHURCH...

- Challenges to our love comes from those close to us.
 - Cain murdered his brother Abel.

WHY?

- Because he was jealous of his righteous deeds.

THE BIBLE SAYS...

- (Matt. 10:21-22) NLT
- (Luke 21:16-17) NLT

HERE’S OUR APPLICATION:

(Lev. 19:17-18) NKJV

- (v.17) *Hate*
 - Reconcile fast!
- (v.18) *don’t bear a grudge*
 - Retain unity!

BACK TO TEXT...

- (v.13) *don’t marvel if the world hates you.*

A KEY INDICATOR OF GOD’S CHANGE IN US...

- Comes as the love of God radiates thru us.

IDEA #2 – THERE’S A MODEL TO FOLLOW: (vv.16-19)

JESUS DEMONSTRATED THE WAY...

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- By laying down His life for us.

THIS IS A HUGE LESSON!!!

JESUS GAVE US A SOLD-OUT... SURRENDERED MODEL.

- Many people go for Jesus’s grace...
 - BUT... when they learn the path is narrow & difficult...
 - They abandon the Lord by pulling back.

THE BIBLE SAYS...

- We’re to lay down our lives for others.
 - Most of you will never physically serve in a foreign country.

SO... THERE’S A SIMPLE APPLICATION!

- Most people... need a reminder about what it is to be a Christian.

AT (v.17)...

- John addresses indifference.

LET ME CONNECT IT...

- In a way that helps us receive the point.

JOHN IS SAYING...

- Let the love of God penetrate your heart...
 - AND start using your resources to support the mission.

THIS MESSAGE IS NEEDED AGAIN & AGAIN...

- Because most people are selfish and don’t give what is right.

SO... HERE’S THE REMINDER...

- If you’ve been at this church for more than a month...
 - AND you have a job.
- Then you’re to contribute at least 10% of you income...
 - Right off the top...
 - Before all other bills or charities.

YOUR PERSONAL MISSION (ASSIGNED BY JESUS)...

- Is to be faithful where He’s planted you.

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THIS IS A SIMPLE TEACHING OF THE BIBLE!

- And it always confronts the hardness of the human heart.

NOW.... (vv.18-19) HERE’S THE PROOF.

- Your submission to God is seen in ACTION.
- John says it’s not what you profess...
 - It’s what you live out.

CHURCH...

- Jesus is coming back for US!
 - And when He asks you what you’ve done with...
 - The life He gave you & resources you steward...
 - What are you going to say?

WELL GOD...

- *The pastor never stirred me up to love & good works.*
 - *He never gave me anything I wanted to invest in.*
 - Bologna!!!

LISTEN GANG...

- If you can receive it... God wants a cheerful giver.

God doesn’t want your relationship with Him...

- To be so shallow that your excuses, disobedience, & unbelief...
 - Hinders His plans for your life & His mission.

REMEMBER...

- It was the very people close to Jesus (in Nazareth)...
 - That hindered His work.

JOHN... DOESN’T WANT THAT TO BE US!

IDEA #3 – COURSE CORRECTION: (vv.20-24)

NOW... IN THIS FINAL SECTION...

- Let’s swing back around and retain the heart of God.

(v.20)

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Many of you are convicted by these truths... AND that’s good!

- Because while you’re saved...
 - You’re really NOT living the Christian life.

SO... GOD... IN HIS COMPASSION...

- Extends His hands mercy to the church.
 - AND bids us to come to Him for forgiveness & help.
 - (His compassion is for us!)

BUT... THERE’S A DEFINITIVE WAY... TO WALK WITH HIM.

(vv.23-24)

- It’s only by the Holy Spirit...
 - AND submission to the Holy Spirit...
 - That we remain in fellowship with God.

~ IN CLOSING ~

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES WE’RE SEEING IN THE CHURCH TODAY...

- Is an unusual level of fear about the future.
 - And people are shrinking back walking out THE FAITH.

YET... GOD WANTS US TO KNOW...

(Ps. 37:5) NLT

*“Commit everything you do to the LORD.
Trust Him and He will help you.”*

SO... I ASK YOU...

- Are you living a counterfeit or genuine faith...
 - According to (1st John)?