

(1 John 4:7-21)
“*The Balance of The Christian Life*”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “*The Balance of The Christian Life*”
 - (1 John 4:7-21) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

TODAY... JOHN CONTINUES ON...

- With the third test on how a child of God...
 - Should understand the balance...
 - Between the **assurance** God gives us...
 - AND the **warnings** He lays out!
- We've been told repeatedly that God is LOVE.
 - AND... we've also... been instructed...
 - That because God is LOVE... we too should LOVE!

SO WHAT DOES THAT LOVE LOOK LIKE?

~ STUDY ~

HERE'S THREE THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:

#1 – THE PATH TO FOLLOW: (vv.7-10)

Let's start with the security God has given the Christian.

- Flip to (Rom. 8:35-39) NKJV

THE BIBLE TEACHES US...

- That NO **external adversity** (vv.35-36) no matter how difficult it is...
 - Will be able to separate us from God's love.
- He also tells us that NO **spiritual resistance** (v.38)...
 - Our **current situation** OR any **future situation**...
 - Can separate us from God's love!

INTERPRETATION...

- That's GOOD NEWS!!!
 - It means we're secure in Jesus.

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○ *Our past / our present / & our future.*

NOW...

- Here's the real-life application:

CHURCH...

- The time has come to stop making excuses...
 - About why YOU can't follow & obey Jesus.
- God is calling you to start living in His promises.
 - Because He's on your side!
- It's amazing!!! It's good news!!!

FLIP BACK TO (1 John 4)...

- And let's put the pieces of our overall study together.

Here's a simple breakdown of (vv.7-10):

- (v.7) This is a command = “*let us love one another...*”

THIS IS THE MAIN TOPIC...

- We've been following – **Love.**

The Love of God Is Seen In Us By:

- a) (3:3) = Staying away from things that defile our lives (nasty habits).
- b) (3:16) = Laying down our lives for others.
- c) (3:17) = Using the financial resources God has given us for His Kingdom.
- d) (3:18) = Action NOT just talk.
- e) (2:5) = Keeping His word (living out His message).
- f) (1:6) = In practicing the truth.

IF THESE THINGS **ARE NOT** PART OF YOUR LIFE...

(1 John 4:7-21)

“The Balance of The Christian Life”

- John brings a warning in (chp. 4:8)...

➤ (v.8) *“He who does NOT love...”*

THEN HE GIVES TWO DEMONSTRATIONS...

➤ (v.9) *“In this... that we might live”*

➤ (v.10) *“In this... NOT our love, but His”*

THE LOVE OF GOD...

- Was working in **our past** (v.9) to bring us to Christ...
 - The love of God is working **in our present** (v.9) to keep us.

AND... (v.17) the Love of God is working...

- To carry us **into the future** Kingdom of God (peace with the Father).

JESUS SAID (John 14:3) NKJV

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

- Jesus is coming back for you?

OK...

- Here's the take away John has been teaching the church:
 - **Live out what you believe!**

CHURCH... THE LABELS OF...

- Indifferent / critical / rude / stingy / uncommitted /
 - Unfaithful / hypocrite...
 - Cannot be labels that define your Christian life!

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

#2 – JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE:

BECAUSE OF (vv. 9-10)...

- This is what our response should be (v.11).

#3 – YOUR LIFE IS THE EVIDENCE:

(v.15) *“Confesses”*

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- Remember last week we learned... this is a topic of Lordship.
 - He's the Lord of my life.

AND... PRACTICALLY SPEAKING...

- Many of our problems occur...
 - Because we don't apply His direction.
- When another Christian speaks into your life...
 - Are you the type of person who resists & then dismisses them?

IN THE BOOK OF (Judges 13 –15)...

- A guy by the name of Sampson... who was a Nazarite.

A NAZARITE LIVED BY THREE THINGS:

- 1) They refrained from anything from the vine (intoxicants).
- 2) They were NOT to get a haircut.
- 3) They were to stay away from dead bodies.

THEY WE'RE TO LIVE...

- Life's that honored God!

HOWEVER...SAMPSON DID THE OPPOSITE...

- He hung out with the Philistines & took a pagan wife.
 - He was vindictive & drank from the vine.
 - AND he ate honey out of a dead lion.

HERE'S THE POINT:

- Sampson didn't take the instruction of God to heart.

SO... I ASK YOU...

- Has your judgment become cloudy?
- Are you resisting God by side-stepping the safety of His word?
- Are you following your desires over biblical wisdom?

EVERYTIME SAMPSON WAS GIVEN MERCY...

- He used it as another opportunity to sin!
 - Until finally... it cost him his life.

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(v.16)

“We have known... & believed the LOVE... God has for us.”

A LIFE OF LOVE...

- Only comes thru a life of FAITH.
 - Believing God at His word & living it out.

(v.17)

JOHN’S AIM...

- Is to encourage believers into a mature Christian life...
 - So, when eternity arises were not entering in with regret.
 - We’re living out the message NOW!

(v.19)

Motivation for obedience only comes from what Jesus did & does for us.

- The woman caught in adultery was NOT condemned.
- The leper who cried for mercy was healed.
- The prophet who was unclean was cleansed.

CHURCH...

- All of us can be slow to do good.
 - But we’re to keep at it...
 - And draw on God’s unfailing love!

~ IN CLOSING ~

THIS LETTER IS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH...

- So, we can give a fair evaluation of our lives... right now!
- If you profess to “love God”
 - BUT live contrary to Him... like Sampson...
 - That’s NOT the kind of LOVE... John is encouraging.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?