

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 11TH-12TH, 2019 // BOOK OF 1 JOHN

LAWLESS (1 JOHN 3:1-10)

CHILDREN OF JESUS CHRIST

John not only makes our identity clear, but he also clarifies how we will be treated by "the world." We will not always be treated well by "the world" because they don't know our Father.

- **We keep trying to fit into a mold that denies the one we should be molded after! True Christians will never be conformed to this world.**

WHAT "WE WILL BE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED."

When we give our lives to Christ, we start to understand our worth and who we are in Him. Though we make significant changes in this life (2 Cor. 3:18), we still don't comprehend how great God is going to make us!

- **If we can begin to understand how far God wants to take us, we will start to purify our lives "just as He is pure."**

PRACTICING LAWLESSNESS

When we sin we break God's laws and we are out of character for what He wants us to be. We also gravitate towards chaos and destruction, hurting ourselves and others in the process.

- **Sin has to be dealt with.** Jesus came not only to **forgive**, but to **empower** us to **overcome** our sinful nature.

WE WILL NOT SIN?

When John says, "Everyone who remains in Him does not sin" he means that we can be free from a lifestyle of sin. For the believer, sin is abnormal, unnatural, and should bring remorse.

- Biblical terminology does not claim that we have two natures, but a new nature in Christ.

BUT WE DO WRESTLE WITH OUR FLESH

Paul makes this clear in Romans 7. Though we have adopted Christ's nature, we still war with our flesh that gravitates towards evil. It is when we give into that pull that we live in sin and rebel against God.

- John says, **"God's children and the devil's children become obvious" by their actions and how they live.**

TWO OPPOSING PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE

When we sin we take part in Satan's plan for our lives. That plan is to kill, steal, and destroy us (Jn. 10).

When we live by God's commands and righteous living we take part in His plan for our lives.

- So, the question is **what direction do our actions take us?**

LOVING OTHERS (1 JOHN 3:11-18)

HOW NOT TO LOVE SOMEONE

John says we should "love one another, unlike Cain" who murdered his brother. Of course we shouldn't kill, but this warning goes deeper than that.

- The murder resulted from **resentment, jealousy, and a disregard for righteousness. Also, Jesus equates hatred to murder in the heart.**

GOD FORGIVES MURDER

Some may commit murder, even a Christian, but God will forgive if they confess and repent.

- Though few commit physical murder, **most of us in this room have committed murder in our hearts by allowing hatred to creep in.** God can forgive this too, but **we must also confess and repent!**

LOVING OTHERS DOES NOT SAVE OUR SOULS

We often say, "They're a good person." Well, we have to define "good." Though our deeds can be good in the eyes of man, it is like "filthy rags" (Is. 64) compared to God's goodness.

- Social justice is good, but does not save us, only a love for God can do that. **Proper love for others will share God's love, the gospel.**

PROPER LOVE IS A BYPRODUCT

John says, "We have come to know love" because "He laid down His life for us." A relationship with Christ will make us look at people differently to the extent that we may "lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

- So, **the social gospel is important, but should have proper motives, and be a means of sharing truth.**

LOVE IN "ACTION AND TRUTH" (V18)

John is not advocating that we do not tell people about Jesus or correct immoral behavior with the Bible. He is telling us that our lives should reflect God's Spirit in us in everything we do, especially our actions.

- But, **in order to use "word and speech," we must first show people that we love them by our deeds.**

CONFIDENCE (1 JOHN 3:18-24)

"...AND WILL REASSURE OUR HEARTS BEFORE HIM."

Not only do we "know that we belong to the truth" by our actions, lifestyle, and character, but a life with Christ will give us a confidence that can only come from Him.

- **Not only will we fall short of God's standards, but of our own as well.** When we do, we tend to feel condemnation and like failures.

GOD FREES US FROM CONDEMNATION

God comes to convict, teach, and save, not to condemn us (Jn. 3). **God came to free us from guilt and shame by empowering us to move away from sin and the ramifications of sin.**

- **We find peace and rest by confessing our failures to Him and knowing He knows all things.**

ANOTHER REASON WE DON'T FOLLOW OUR HEARTS

Not only will our hearts deceive us (Jer. 17:9), but they condemn us as well. If we choose to follow God instead of our hearts we escape condemnation and become confident, not in us, but God in us.

- **There is nothing good in us (Rm. 7:18), but with Christ in us we can be what we are designed to be.**

AND "WE RECEIVE WHATEVER WE ASK?"

This is where poor and dangerous theology can creep in. We only get "whatever we ask" when we ask for things in God's will.

- **When we grow close to God we start to want the things He wants and we ask for those things.** God is quick to provide and answer the requests of a righteous person (Js. 5:16).

TO BE FRUITFUL

If we are to be productive followers of Christ there are two simple, yet sometimes hard to keep, commands.

1. First, **we are to "believe in His name" and love God above all things.**
2. Second, **we are to "love one another as He commanded us."**

BY THE SPIRIT HE HAS GIVEN US

We will know that Christ is in us by the "Spirit He has given us." To know if the Spirit is in us, we will see fruit of that Spirit (Gal. 5) working in our personal lives and affecting those around us.

- **Remember, the proof is in action not just word and speech (v18).**

RESULTS OF THE SPIRIT

SOLID DOCTRINE

We must know the true identity of Jesus Christ via the Bible. We need to believe in repentance, baptism, the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit and we must know what the Bible says about sin.

GENUINE LOVE

The content and message of the Bible can be summed up in two commands: love God with all your heart, mind, and soul and love your neighbor and treat them as you would want to be treated.

CONSISTANT OBEDIENCE

We will know we are in Him if we keep His commands and do what He instructs us to do. John repeatedly states that our lifestyles prove or disprove our claims of faith. **God blesses obedience!**