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ABIDING IN THE LIGHT

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN
NUMBER 8
1 JOHN 2:6-11

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1 JOHN 2:6-11 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

This is such a simple passage that it is really complex. This is about as simple as any Greek in the New Testament. We see light and darkness in this passage. We see hate and love in this passage. But the thoughts behind the simple language is deep and complex.

Two Categories Of Believers

Light and darkness are used here for two categories of believers. Darkness is used here to describe the believer out of fellowship, and light is used to describe the believer who is taking in doctrine and is in the process of erecting an edification complex in his soul. There are two ways to walk; either we walk in darkness or we walk in the light. Walking in the darkness is the believer who is negative toward doctrine. This is what Paul calls the mataiotes and it means a black-out in the soul. This is the believer who has no doctrinal information. He is disoriented to God's Word, God's plan, God's will and God's grace. He is just as truly saved as any believer in the world, but he isn't functioning like a Christian because he is walking in darkness instead of walking in the light. He is acting just as if he were an unbeliever and he imitates the unbeliever. To show that he is in darkness we have one word that shows his mental attitude sins, and the word is hate. Hate means that you are under the control of the old sin nature and are blind to the whole plan of God. This is the believer who has scar tissue in the soul. Hate here represents the whole realm of mental attitude sins.

Mental Attitude Sins Are The Worst

Mental attitude sins are the worst sins of all. In Proverbs 6:16-19 we are told that seven of the worst sins include six mental attitude sins and tongue sins. Mental attitude sins are the spawning ground for all other sins. While you may be shocked by the overt sins that other people do, be sure to remember that mental attitude sins breed all other sins. Again and again God says that mental attitude sins are the worst. These are the easiest sins to rationalize. These are the sins that we cover up in the soul. Some of you have just "passionately hated" someone and then you have justified it in your soul. I can almost hear a lot of you saying, "Not me. He's not talking about me." Remember, this is something that is common to all believers. Now I will admit that some of you look tonight like you haven't had a strong feeling about anything for a long time, and I suppose that is because it is Wednesday night.

They Can't Go Together

Remember this--hate and love just can't exist in the same soul. All of you have heard, "Hell hath no fury like a woman's scorn." Hate is a concentration and it excludes everything that is lovely and fine. When you bring this over into the spiritual life, the filling of The Holy Spirit produces love, and carnality produces all such things as hate and bitterness and jealousy. John therefore shows us here how hate excluded love and love excludes hate. You cannot hate and ever be happy. You can't hate without making other people around miserable. You just can't entertain mental attitude sins without making yourself miserable and without making everybody around you miserable. When you have mental attitude sins and other people finally catch on to you, they are going to get away from you just as fast as they can. Therefore, in this passage, John comes along and knocks all the pins out from under us and we just don't have a hate leg left for us to stand on. Doctrine in the soul gives us capacity to love and this intense love drives out hate. Love will make you relaxed, it will calm you down, it will cause you to put everything in the Lord's hands. It gives you stability and inner peace. This is the only way in the world for a believer ever to master the details of life.

1 JOHN 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." This verse begins with the believer abiding in The Lord Jesus Christ and that's where every believer ought to be and that's where we ought to stay. "He that saith" means that you for into words the thoughts you have already had in your mind. This is a present, active, participle so this means the believer who habitually takes this stance. The word "abide" comes from meno and it is used two ways by John. It refers to being filled with the Holy Spirit and being in union with Christ. Who controls your life? Either the Holy Spirit or the old sin nature. We will see from this Scripture that we have before us a believer who is contending that he is in fellowship but he is not. He contends that he is a spiritual believer but he is not.

A Double Proof

John therefore sets out to prove to this misinformed believer that he is not spiritual and John does it in two ways. "As he walked" is a reference to Jesus Christ. Now all through these passages we have believers saying things that are not so. John therefore gives us an illustration and it is "walk as Jesus walked." John is here referring to the humanity of Christ. Christ had a soul just like ours, except for one thing, he didn't have an old sin nature. This is documented in many passages.

ISAIAH 11:2-3 "And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:"

ISAIAH 42:1 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."

ISAIAH 61:1-2 "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

JOHN 3:34 "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."

MATTHEW 3:16 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:"

It says of Jesus in Matthew 12:18 "If I do these things in the power of the Holy Spirit (This is a first class condition and it means it is true, he did do those things in the power of the Spirit)." Luke 4:14 says that Jesus was led by The Holy Spirit. The only time The Holy Spirit left him was when he was hanging on the cross, when Christ bore our sins all alone. The Father forsook him and The Holy Spirit forsook him. The Father forsook him because he was judging our sins. The Holy Spirit forsook him because Christ was made sin for us and The Holy Spirit will have no part with sin. They both forsook Christ and he died alone.

Once Christ was through bearing our sins, God returned to him and we hear him say, "Father, into thy hands I hand back my human spirit." At that moment both God The Father and God The Holy Spirit had returned to Christ. When Christ was raised from the grave, then spent forty days on earth with his followers, then ascended to the right hand side of God, at that very moment the Holy Spirit was placed within every born again believer and that was the beginning of The Church Age.

JOHN 7:39 "(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" This verse sheds light on this truth. The first Advent of The Holy Spirit was the beginning of the Church Age.

Therefore "walking as he walked" means that we too must walk under the control of The Holy Spirit just like Christ did.

GALATIANS 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

ROMANS 8:4 "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

"Walk in the Spirit" and "Walk in the newness of life" and "walk as he walked" all mean exactly the same thing.

The Doctrine Of The Transition

1. During the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, Christ was always under the control of The Holy Spirit. He was always filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. During the Church Age the same ministry is available to every believer. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and when the old sin nature is blacked out, then the Holy Spirit is in control.

JOHN 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

3. The sustaining ministry of a believer depends on the filling of the Holy Spirit. Every believer is commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18. The means of being filled with The Holy Spirit is 1 John 1:9.
4. When the believer is filled with The Holy Spirit, he produces divine good according to the will of God. The filling of The Holy Spirit plus the intake of doctrine always results in the erection of an Edification Complex. Galatians 4:19
5. The transitional command is found in Romans 13:14. This really says, "Put on the Christ."

Seven Principles Of Putting On Christ

1. The purpose of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age is to glorify Christ.
JOHN 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."
Christ is absent from the earth during the Church Age and The Holy Spirit is down here looking after Christ's interests.
2. This glorification of Christ takes place on the inside of the believer.
1 CORINTHIANS 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"
1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
 - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit produces the character of Christ.
 - b. The presence of the Holy Spirit within makes it possible for the believer to understand doctrine.
3. When the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, his life record is written by the Spirit. This is soul writing versus ston writing, as the Ten Commandments.
4. When the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, Christ is at home in the body as stated in Ephesians 3:16-17.
5. When the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, Christ is glorified in the human body.
PHILIPPIANS 1:20 "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."
"To me to live is Christ" means one must be filled with the Holy Spirit.
6. When the believer is filled with The Holy Spirit and is inhaling doctrine, then Christ is formed in the believer.
GALATIANS 4:19 "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"

1 these principles are connected with putting on Christ and should be the object of every believer.

1 JOHN 2:7 "Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning." The word "beloved" is from agapetoi and is better translated "beloved" than "brethren." John is chiding them here about the position they should be occupying. "I write no new commandment" means that he is now repeating something they had been taught often before. In order for people to learn, you have to go over and over and over again. John here is referring to doctrine that is repeated again and again in the Bible. The word for "new" is from kainos and it means not new or different in kind. "Old commandment" means not old in time but old in that it has been repeated again and again in the Bible. "Which we had from the beginning" means the beginning of their Christian lives. The old commandment "is" and this is the present, active, indicative of eimi means "keeps on being" the word which we have heard. "Heard" is the aorist, active, indicative of akouo. In order to learn something well, you have to go over and over and over again. A good coach will go over a simple play again and again until the players get so they just do it automatically. The same thing is true of doctrine. Repetition, if doctrine is to be learned, is a necessity. People may say, "I've already heard that." But remember, you need to hear it again and again until it becomes a part of your inner thinking.

Illustration It is just like a woman putting on makeup. She does it every single day (at least I hope she does). And though they repeat it over and over again every day, it never becomes commonplace or superfluous. So when we repeat doctrine here remember this is the only way to learn.

1 JOHN 2:8 "Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth." The word "new" here is from kainos and means new in species. The believer is a new born again species and he needs a new commandment. He needs spiritual newness. 1 Cor. 2:14 says the unsaved man can't understand spiritual things. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Next we have "which thing is true" and the word for true is alethes and it means bona fide. The truth has always been in God and now he is transferring his mind into us. "The darkness is past" means that the time for scar tissue being on the soul is over. "Darkness is past" is the present, middle, indicative of parago and the true light begins to shine on the inside of the soul. The word for "now" is ede and it means "already." The word "shineth" is the present, active, indicative of phaino. This is the real true light of God shining inside the soul.

1 JOHN 2:9 "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now." This is a picture of the self-righteous believer. He contends that he has light when he doesn't. This is the pseudo Christian. He says he is in the light, which word is phos but at the same time he hateth his brother. "Hateth" is the present, active, participle of miseo. This person represents the whole realm of mental attitude sins. He keeps on being jealous, bitter, and vindictive. He is filled with gossip and guilt. When a person is grace

oriented, he just doesn't go around hating people. He develops a relaxed mental attitude and his mind is controlled by agape love. Agape love excludes all mental attitude sins. You can't hate someone when you have the mental attitude of love. Hate just goes out the window when love comes in and fills the soul.

1 JOHN 2:10 "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." "He that loveth" is a present, active, participle of agapao and means "keeps on loving" abides in the light. The stumbling block mentioned here is mental attitude sins. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit there is no stumbling block of mental attitude sin in you. This is soul stumbling and there is nothing worse.

1 JOHN 2:11 "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." This is scar tissue in the soul. He hates and he walks in darkness and he doesn't have a clue about where he is really going. The reason--darkness has blinded his eyes. It is quite obvious that this is not speaking of physical blindness. This refers to the eyes of the soul. He has spiritual cataracts.

This passage has set forth the believer as a new species. So the way to check out yourself to see if you are in the new species is to check your mental attitude. If you discover mental attitude sins, drive them out by an intake of The Word of God.