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W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

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THE DOCTRINES OF MORALITY AND LOVE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN
NUMBER 20
1 JOHN 3:10-11

Dr. W. O. Vaught
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

1 JOHN 3:10-11 "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

In the first part in this chapter we have studied the importance of understanding what is principle and what is practice. Beginning with verse 10 we will study the relative concept of the Christian life. We are going to see here the principles of love and hate, of divine good versus human good and the place of morality in the life. All of these things are related to the working out of the principle of grace in our lives.

1 JOHN 3:10 "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." This shouldn't be hard for us to understand for we have already learned the difference between principle and practice. "In this" really means "by means of this." That phrase comes from en plus the instrumental of houtos and refers to the Holy Spirit within the life using the Word of God within us to build strong Christian character.

We have seen the word teknion and that word referred to the baby Christian. But this is a little different word and the letter "i" is omitted and the word is teknon. This word gives emphasis to the family relationship. "Are manifest" is the present, active, indicative of eimi plus phanaros and this refers to the kind of spiritual maturity which comes from the erection of an edification complex in the soul. This is a picture of how you can distinguish the mature believer. And this is the one thing in your life that Satan cannot duplicate. He cannot counterfeit grace orientation and spiritual maturity in the soul. Satan just doesn't have the resources to do anything like this in your life. This, therefore, brings into focus the doctrine of morality.

THE DOCTRINE OF MORALITY

This doctrine is designed to shake you up and cause you to realize that morality is not spirituality.

1. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT MORALITY.

Christianity is a relationship with God through Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

The believer is a new creature, not because of the change of some behaviour pattern, not because of giving up some sinful habit, but because of his position in Christ. At conversion the Holy Spirit enters us into union with Christ and that's why believers are new creatures. You are not a new creature because you gave up something. Every time you show me a believer who gave up something, I can show you unbelievers who have done exactly the same thing. You haven't proved anything by changing your behaviour pattern. Christianity is far more than a system of morality or something that you do not do. Religion is man seeking God. Christianity is God seeking man.

2. CHRISTIANITY MEANS YOU ARE IN CHRIST. MORALITY IS A BY-PRODUCT OF CHRISTIANITY.
EPHESIANS 5:3 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;"
3. MORALITY HAS NO SPIRITUAL DYNAMICS.
GALATIANS 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."
4. THE DYNAMICS OF CHRISTIANITY ARE FOUND IN THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
(Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8:2-4)
This leads to the erection of the edification complex in the soul. This is called the new man.
EPHESIANS 4:24 "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
5. MORALITY IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE ORDERLY FUNCTION OF THE HUMAN RACE.
Morality was designed so the four divine institutions could work. Volition, marriage, the family and the nation all depend on morality. Therefore, morality is not only for Christians, it is for the whole human race.
When morality is side-stepped the race declines. The unbeliever is capable of great morality, as illustrated by the Rich Young Ruler in Matthew 19:18-20.
6. MORALITY CANNOT PROVIDE SALVATION OR SPIRITUALITY.
TITUS 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
GALATIANS 3:2 "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"
To inject morality as a means of salvation is legalism. To inject morality as a means of spirituality is also legalism. That's the emphasis of the whole book of Galatians.
7. MORALITY IS DESIGNED BY GOD FOR THE PERPETUATION AND SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE.
The human race could not survive in the Angelic Conflict were it not for morality. Morality is designed to protect human freedom. People have to be free in order to respond to the Gospel.

The word teknon is used again here for children of the Devil. When we are born again we are children of God. But we are born into this world children of the Devil. We are born into the Devil's family, and we are born with an old sin nature. The production of sin and human good are manifestations of our first birth. These are manifestations of the children of the Devil. The only thing that can break this downward plunge is the production of divine good, and this comes from learning the Word of God and from the filling of The Holy Spirit. Failure to produce divine good and mental attitude sins are signs of our first birth.

we have the word "whosoever" and in this sentence it refers to the believer. "Doeth not righteousness" is the production of the unbeliever. So the characteristics of the unbeliever are exactly the same as the carnal believer. "Doeth not" is a present, active, participle, plus the negative, of poieo. The word for righteousness is dikaiosune and this means being oriented to grace. The unbeliever simply cannot produce dikaiosune, which is God's righteousness. The next phrase "and it is not out from the source of God." "Neither he that loveth not his brother" is referring to the believer in carnality. It is referring to a believer who does not have a relaxed mental attitude. His soul is blacked out by mental attitude sins. Agape love means freedom from mental attitude sins.

1 JOHN 3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." In this verse we have emphasis on the capacity to love as we live out our Christian lives. This verse makes it quite clear that the last part of verse 10 was referring to the believer out of fellowship and incapable of loving the brethren. "This is the message" and the word for message is anggelia and it means doctrine. "That ye heard" is from the word akouo. The words "from the beginning" are incorrectly translated. We have the word arche which they have translated "from the beginning" but the word means authority, and here it is referring to the ultimate source which is the Word of God. The pastor-teacher gives you the doctrine and you hear truth from the ultimate source, which is the authority of the Word of God. "We should love" is from agapao love and it means mental attitude love. It is the present, active, subjunctive so it means keep on loving. The subjunctive mood means maybe you will do this and maybe you won't. "One another" is from allos and it means another of the same kind. It does not mean love everybody. It is talking about believers loving believers. That brings us to look at the doctrine of love.

THE DOCTRINE OF LOVE

Love is probably one of the most misunderstood of all doctrines.

1. AT THE POINT OF SALVATION THE BELIEVER PASSES THE POINT OF PROPITIATION PLACING HIMSELF UNDER MAXIMUM DIVINE LOVE.

1 JOHN 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

God made a decision to reach man in grace. In the cross Christ satisfied the righteousness and justice of God and that opened up the grace pipe so God's love could flow to us. Therefore, every believer is under maximum divine love. This means that God loves every believer with the same amount of love and the same kind of love that he has for Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 1:6 "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

"The beloved" is a title for Jesus Christ and we are in union with Christ. We are accepted in the beloved therefore, we are also called "The beloved." There is nothing that we can ever do that will cause his love to diminish.

2. GOD IS ABLE TO LOVE EVERY BELIEVER WITH A MAXIMUM LOVE.
This is in spite of the believer's spiritual status. This is an encouragement for laxness in Christian devotion, it merely shows the stability of the character of God.
3. THERE ARE THREE CATEGORIES OF LOVE.
a. Soul love. This is the love of man for God.
b. Relationship love. The love of right man for right woman.
The love of parents for children and children for parents.
c. Friendship love. Casual love for friends.
4. TWO TYPES OF LOVE PRESENTED IN THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT.
The verbs that present these two types of love are agapao and phileo. Agapao love is a specialized kind of love. It is not divine love unless God is the subject. In John 3:19 it says that unbelieving men can employ agapao love and they can actually love darkness. Agapao love is a mental attitude love. This is the love of the mind, the love you think. Here in 1 John 3:11 we have this agapao love, a specialized type of mental attitude love. Phileo love is the warm personal kind of love which is related to all facets of the soul. Phileo is a total soul love, and every time you meet phileo love, you are dealing with the highest type of love in the world. Every time the Bible says, "The Father loves the Son" this is always phileo love.
5. BELIEVERS ARE ^{never} ~~COMMANDED TO PHILEO LOVE~~ ^{but are commanded} ~~AND NEVER~~ AGAPAO LOVE.
The Bible never commands us to love everybody. Archbishop Trent is one of those who said that he was sure that Phileo love is the greatest love in the world and that Agapao love is mental attitude love. He studied the latin equivalent to these two Greek words and came to this conclusion.
6. DISTINCTION BETWEEN AGAPAO AND PHILEO LOVE CAN BE DETERMINED IN THIS WAY.
Agapao is a mental attitude love and emphasizes the exclusion of mental attitude sins. Phileo is a general soul love which connotes a stability, a compatibility, a maturity in love. In the Edification Complex in the soul the relaxed mental attitude is built on agapao love, but then when we climb on up to the higher realm of capacity to love, this is built on phileo love. Phileo love is the highest love of all, a total soul love. Agapao love has two sources of production; the filling of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:5) and the Edification Complex of the soul (1 John 2:5). Phileo as a total soul love is found in John 21:15-17. You recall that last talk Jesus had with Simon Peter beside the Sea of Galilee and when he asked Peter if he had agapao love for him, Peter insisted that he had more love than that, that he had phileo type love. Peter stuck to his guns and in the third time Jesus asked him if he really had advanced that far and if he really did have phileo type love for him. Peter was grieved that Jesus questioned the fact that he had advanced that far and actually did phileo him, which is the highest soul love we know anything about.

ALL BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED AGAPAO TYPE LOVE.

GALATIANS 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"

Also the whole 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians talks about Agapao type love. But Christians are never commanded to phileo type love. This only comes from spiritual maturity and stability.

8. PHILEO LOVE HAS GREATER CAPACITY AND DEPENDS ON CARRYING OUT DOCTRINE IN DAILY LIVING.

Agapao type love is confined to the mind and can be produced instantly by means of rebound.

9. AGAPAO LOVE ALWAYS DEPENDS ON THE SUBJECT.

If God is the subject, then agapao love is perfect mental attitude love, as we have in John 3:16. But if man is the subject, as in John 3:19 where we read about unsaved men employing agapao type mental attitude love, then it is not perfect love.

10. GOD IS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF PHILEO LOVE.

JOHN 16:27 "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." The Father keeps on loving you, and that is phileo type love. This is a total essence love from God the Father. Those words "have believed" are a perfect, active, indicative and this refers to a permanent state of stabilized love.

*For
Believers
only*

11. MOVE UP TO PHILEO LOVE.

We all begin with agapao love, but the more we understand God and the more we know his Word, we are able to move up to a higher soul love and this is phileo love all the way. Phileo love will be the type of love we will experience in heaven.