

1st John Lesson 9 - The Children Of God & The Children Of The Devil

1 John 3:9-10 Whosoever is born of God doth not [habitually] commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot [habitually] sin, because he is born of God [he has a righteous life source from the vine of Christ]. (10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever [habitually] doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

John continues to teach what he heard Jesus teach over fifty years earlier;

Mat 12:33 **Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.**

It is another "Jane, see the ball" moment. Jesus said, "**MANY** will say to me in that day,"

Mat 7:21-23 **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

I keep trying to word this with the same **intensity** that John had when he wrote the epistle. Remember John's purpose in writing it,

1Jn 1:3 **That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

John wants every person who hears his letter to "have fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." Many who hear John's letter will come to an amazing discovery. They "thought" they were okay with God. They thought they were in fellowship with the Father and the Son. They had listened to the false teachings of the many "anti-christ" teachers tell them they did not have to obey the teachings of Christ. But **MANY** who listen to the aged apostle John's letter who is writing wisdom learned after a lifetime of serving Jesus, they will discover they are not in fellowship with the Father or the Son. **John is writing ... examine the fruit of your life. If you find habitual sin ... a lifestyle of sin ... you are still a child of the devil.** I am going to incur wrath by giving a demonstration based directly on the apostle Paul's writings in the NKJV,

1Co 6:9-10 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. NKJV

The unrighteous will **NOT** inherit the kingdom of God. Paul chooses to use the Greek word for "not" which means, "absolutely not to the point of being an impossibility."

"Jane, see the ball!" If this is you ... you will NOT inherit the kingdom of God.

I live in habitual fornication ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I worship many gods ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I habitually commit adultery ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I am a practicing homosexual ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I am an active sodomite (originally anal intercourse ... in Corinth ... anal sex with boys ... a male temple prostitute ... very prevalent in Corinth at the time) ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I am a habitual thief ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I live to make myself rich ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I get drunk frequently ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

I habitually abuse people and rail on them ... I don't bridle my tongue at all. ... bad fruit ... bad tree ... child of the devil.

IMPORTANT – THESE ARE DEAL BREAKER SINS – JOHN (AND PAUL) ARE NOT SAYING PEOPLE WHO HABITUALLY DO THESE THINGS ARE CHRISTIANS HAVING TROUBLE WITH THEIR FLESH. JOHN (AND PAUL) ARE SAYING IF YOU HABITUALLY DO THESE THINGS ... YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE DEVIL. YOU ARE NOT SAVED. YOU WILL NOT MAKE HEAVEN. REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL SO YOU CAN BE SAVED AND HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON.

When we say at the Prayer Center, "**You are not your struggles**" we are NOT talking about these kinds of "deal breaker" sins. We are talking about "I need to pray more, I need to give more, I need to bridle my tongue more" ... on and on this list can go. God is not requiring perfection, but God is requiring those who follow Christ to NOT WALK IN DARKNESS. No matter what the Politically Correct, modern culture says ... all of the things mentioned in that list are deal-breaker sins. They are gross DARKNESS. Jesus says,

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

Notice Jesus said those that follow Him shall NOT WALK in darkness. Notice everything in the list of DARKNESS above has to do with what people DO ... not what they SAY! John continues to teach, examine what you are **doing**, not what you are **saying**. Now John brings that same thinking over into the arena of LOVE. Picking up where we left off,

1Jn 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.

Many people "say" they love their brother. John is teaching, "Examine what people **do**, not what they **say** ... **even when it comes to loving our brother.**"

1Jn 3:11-15 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (12) Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Love is the message from the beginning:

Lev 19:18 ... thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Joh 13:34 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

John is using Cain and Abel to illustrate many of the points he has made in this epistle:

1. Abel's works were righteous.
 - a. Adam and Eve taught both sons about the animal whose blood was shed in order to make a "covering" for them. [Gen 3:21]
 - b. There was a reason Abel was a "keeper of sheep."
 - i. He wanted to have the appropriate sacrifice available.
 - c. Abel's offering was a blood offering.
 - i. A righteous offering as taught to him by his parents, Adam and Eve.
 - ii. Adam and Eve were taught the "blood sacrifice" by God Himself.
 1. Something innocent had to die.
 2. Blood had to be shed.
 3. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission. [Heb 9:22]
 - iii. Abel was keeping the commandments for making offerings to God.
2. Cain's works were evil.
 - a. Cain brought a bloodless offering to the Lord.
 - b. Cain was making up his own way to approach God.
 - i. He was devising his own religion, a bloodless religion, where man can offer his own works in the place of innocent blood.
 - ii. Cain knew better. He had been taught by Adam and Eve also.
 - iii. Said another way, Cain knew what the instructions were for offerings.
 - iv. He was going to approach God "how he wanted to."
 - v. When he removed the blood, he destroyed the foundation of the gospel.

Cain did not love Abel. Cain murdered Abel. We discern Cain's love by what he DID, not by what he SAID. Cain is typical of the world, Abel is typical of the believer. The world hates the believer because we love God, we hear God, and we obey God.

1 John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

John uses Cain and Abel to illustrate again how we cannot love the world and love Jesus at the same time. **In the same way that Cain hated Abel, the world hates you.** Abel kept the commandments. Cain did not. Christians keep the commandments of Jesus. The world does not. The world hates genuine Christians. HATES! THE WORLD HAS NO TOLERANCE FOR THE TRUE CHRISTIAN. The world preaches "tolerance," but it has zero tolerance for the truth of God's word. John is saying, **THE WORLD HATES YOU THE WAY CAIN HATED ABEL.**

Abel's righteousness of keeping the commandment to bring a blood offering exposed Cain's unrighteousness for disobedience to the commandment. Cain was in sin, yet he refused to repent. Rather than admit he was wrong, repent and live according to the

commandment of God ... Cain murdered his brother instead. That is HATE! John wants you to understand that is the level of HATE the world has for the genuine Christian. Get inside Cain's heart for a moment, *"I will NOT yield to the righteous requirement of God. I will live how I want to live and God will have to accept whatever offering I bring Him."*

1 John 3:13-15 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

When I was at the worst of my life as a sinner, I didn't want those "stupid, backward, holier than thou" Christians around me. I didn't have any affection for them at all. But now, Christians are my family ... more than my birth family.

Mat 12:46-50 While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. (47) Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. (48) But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? (49) And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!** (50) **For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.****

CHRISTIANITY IS A FAMILY ... NOT A RELIGION. YOU CANNOT JOIN IT. YOU CANNOT BUY YOUR WAY INTO IT. YOU CANNOT WORK FOR IT. LIKE ANY FAMILY, YOU MUST BE BORN INTO IT.

Joh 3:5-7 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

Cain hated Abel, but Abel did not hate Cain. The world hates us, but we do not hate the world. The world is of the devil, and the lust of the devil the world will do. But we are of our Father, who loved the world, and sent His son to save the world so those who believe on Him would not perish but have eternal life. We love the sinner while we hate the sin. We are willing to incur the wrath of the world as we hold up the truth of the gospel to them, hoping they will be saved. And even if they hate us so much they murder us, our prayer for them will be *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."*

EVERYTHING Jesus is saying and doing is to save the world, even the Pharisees who hated Him. Right after the famous verse about setting man free from sin, Jesus is making a way for His Father to become their father, **but they were thinking how to kill him, the same way Cain murdered his brother Abel.**

Joh 8:36-47 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (37) I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. (38) I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. (39) They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. (40) But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. (41) Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God. (42) Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. (43) Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word. (44) Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (45) And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not. (46) Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? (47) He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

1Jn 3:16-18 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. (17) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Jesus did not just "say" that He loved us. He SHOWED us He loved us by laying down His life for us. We are not to simply "say" we love the brethren. We are to SHOW that we love the brethren. If we have more than we need of this world's good, and see our brother have need, yet we DO NOTHING about it by sharing what we have ... that is NOT the love of God. John is still teaching ... **YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO!** Ask the Rich Man who would not give the beggar Lazarus the crumbs from his table how serious this is.

There is a difference between helping someone who is in genuine need and becoming an enabler of someone who only wants to continue in their rebellion, sin, and addictions. John is teaching love in the context that Jesus taught it. He is not teaching some different

kind of love than Jesus taught. Remember the Prodigal Son?

Luk 15:16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

THANK GOD!!! Hunger is a great motivator. Jesus does not condone enabling people to continue in their sin. Notice the Father did not keep on giving the rebellious son money to continue in his rebellion. Some people need to hit bottom. Some people need to hit bottom and bounce a couple of times before they finally REPENT AND RETURN TO THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER.

... and seeth his brother have need. The Greek word translated "need" in that verse is, Strong's G5532 chreia and the first meaning is "**employment.**"

What the person has NEED of is ... Employment ... a way to earn a living. If they are out of work, for whatever reason ... medical, economic downturn, some other tragedy ... then we are to help with their physical needs until they find EMPLOYMENT again. This is for those who are not lazy, willing to work, but for some legitimate reason, have no employment and ... we help them. But we do not ENABLE them to be lazy, rebellious, drug addicts, or drunks. Even the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son did not enable the young man to continue in his rebellion.

1Jn 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Over and over in this epistle, John keeps giving us the simplicity of the gospel. He presents again and again the teachings of Jesus. It is not what a person "says" that defines what they are. **People are what they do!** The apostle James teaches the same lesson taught by Christ,

Jas 2:14-18 What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? (17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

THAT IS WHAT JESUS DID. HE DID NOT JUST "SAY" GOD LOVED US. HE "SHOWED" US GOD LOVED US BY GIVING HIS OWN LIFE, SO WE COULD BE SAVED.

Many have perverted the gospel of Christ to say He "enabled" us to continue in our sin by giving us grace to cover it. NO, NO, NO ... A THOUSAND TIMES NO! He did not enable you to continue in your sin by giving you grace to cover it ... while you remain in it. That would be like the Father sending the Prodigal a monthly check to enable him to continue in his rebellion.

Christ died to save us FROM our sin! The grace of God frees us from sin. The love of God empowers us to walk free from sin. We can return to our Father's house, not as slaves still bound in sin, but as sons of God, restored with the robe, the ring, and the glory of SONSHIP!

Joh 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

What is that glory? SONSHIP! Grace made you a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.