

1st John Lesson 14 – As He Is, So Are We, In This World

REVIEW

1Jn 4:16-17 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. **(17) Herein** is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

"Herein" ... as we **know and believe** the love God has **to us** ... our love is made "perfect" [Greek = "made complete"]. Remember, love is a "fruit" of the spirit. It grows, it matures, it becomes complete. It may be a bitter little peach about the size of a marble in the beginning, but it is a peach ... and it is genuine ... it just needs to become complete ... it just needs to mature on the branch. How? As we "know and believe." Maybe it would be good for all of us to begin saying about ourselves what John always said about himself, *"I am the disciple whom Jesus loves."* Don't just "know" about the love of God. BELIEVE the love that God has toward YOU! "Herein" ... to know and "believe" ... that is HOW the fruit of love is perfected, matured, made complete in you.

LESSON BEGINS

How does God love you? Does He love you like you love your car? Like you love your dog? Like you love Krispy Kreme donuts? When it comes to BELIEVING the love He has for you, it will stretch all of your capacity for faith to believe what Jesus said,

Joh 17:22-23 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: (23) I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Can you believe that? Can you believe that the Father loves you the same that He has loved Jesus? That's what John means when he says, **we have known and believed the love that God hath to us**. How could Jesus say something like that? It is predicated on something He said in the same passage, **the glory which thou gavest me I have given them**. I will never forget the first time I heard Dave teach: What is that glory? It is the glory of SONSHIP! Jesus made it possible for His Father to become our Father. He has made us joint-heirs with Himself. Dare to say it with me, I AM A CHILD OF GOD. JESUS GAVE ME THE SAME GLORY THE FATHER GAVE HIM. THAT IS THE GLORY OF SONSHIP. I AM A JOINT HEIR WITH CHRIST. THE FATHER LOVES ME THE SAME AS HE LOVES JESUS. I AM A CHILD OF GOD. I AM A CHILD OF LIGHT. I WALK AS A CHILD OF LIGHT.

That we may have boldness in the day of judgment:

Why will you have boldness? Because you have "known and believed" ... You are a child of God! You have the standing of sonship. The Father loves you the same as He loves Jesus. You walk as a child of light and you are in good standing with the Father. You know you know Him and you know you love Him ... because ... you keep His commandments by walking as the son of God He has made you. **You have boldness as you approach His throne ...**

BECAUSE ... AS HE IS, SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD.

Keep the whole context of the letter in mind ... you are born of God ... He loves you ... you know it and you believe it ... He is love ... He is your vine ... His love flows through you ... You are of the same species. You are a child of God. Remember the purpose of God, a lesson taught earlier in this series. What is God's purpose? To populate the earth with sons of God made in the image of Christ. You have been reborn as His child. You have been re-created in the image of Christ. You are like Him now, all by God's grace. Your job is to have faith in what God has done in you through Christ.

As He is, so are we, in this world. Or, we are like Him, now, not when we get to heaven. How are we like Him? By faith in God's grace. What did the grace of God teach us?

Tit 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Grace teaches us we are to:

1. Deny ungodliness ... that is like Him ... He denied it. I deny it.
2. Deny worldly lusts ... that is like Him ... He overcame the world. I overcome the world.
3. Live soberly ... that is like Him ... all things in moderation.
 - a. With sound mind, exercising restraint of passions and desires.
4. Live Righteously ... toward God and our fellow man ... that is like Him. I do that.
 - a. Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
 - b. Literally means, "Do what is right."
5. Live Godly ... that is like Him ... He lived godly in this world. I do too!
6. You, the real you, the re-created you, the born-again you, is created in the same image.

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. KJV

Eph 4:24 And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness. AMPLIFIED

You might say, *"Brother Gary, I am a Christian, but that list does not describe my life very much at all."* If that is you, this teaching series is the answer to that situation for the true Christian. The gospel is ... by faith in Jesus Christ you have been forgiven, and reborn, recreated in the image of Christ. Your job now is to obey the same message that Jesus preached more than fifty years earlier:

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

The time is now. The kingdom of God is yours if you want it. If Jesus is your Lord, then you are a child of God, a child of light so ... repent of sin ... believe the gospel ... and begin walking as the child of light you are. God knows the power of the "light of life" He placed in you at your new birth. It is the same "road tested" life He put in Jesus when He raised Him from the dead. You have the same life. You are like Him now! **Walk like the son of God that you truly are.** You have the glory of sonship and the Father loves you with the same love He loved Jesus with.

Not walking as the child of God you truly are is what prevents people from having boldness in the day of judgement. And it is why they still have fear and torment at the thought of standing before Him on judgment day. The love of God has not yet matured on their limbs to the point they are walking like Him in this world. But He is your Vine. His LIFE flows through you. **As He is, so are you, in this world.**

Even if you say you are a Christian and even if you call Jesus your Lord, **there is good reason to fear if you do not repent of sin and believe this gospel.**

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.

Are you born of God or not? Are you in the family of God or not? Who did Jesus say His family was?

Luk 8:21 And he answered and said unto them, *My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.*

Those who hear the word of God and do it. When Jesus says, "I never knew you" He is saying ... **You are not my brethren. You are not part of the family. You are not born of My Father. You are not like Me.**

A person might protest, *"But Jesus, I said a sinner's prayer twenty years ago. I know I lived ungodly and gave into worldly lusts all the time since then. And yes, I lived a lifestyle of fornication and drug abuse. And, it is true, many of my weekends were filled with drunken parties. Oh, and yes, I must admit, I spent my life trying to build bigger barns for myself because I wanted to be rich and have the good things of the world ... but Jesus ... I said the sinner's prayer twenty years ago. Surely that was enough."* IT IS AN ABOMINATION THAT SO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY ARE CHRISTIANS BASED ON A WATERED DOWN GOSPEL LIKE THAT WHICH NEITHER JESUS, NOR THE APOSTLES, EVER TAUGHT.

Contrast that with Peter's invitation at the end of the **first sermon** preached after Pentecost in the upper room:

Act 2:36-41 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (37) Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? (38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. (40) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

1. Repent ... first ... then be baptized.
 - a. God sent John the Baptist preaching repentance ahead of Jesus ... why?
 - b. To prepare the way of the Lord.
 - c. Baptism is the public profession ... *"As I go under the water, I die to who I was before as a child of Adam."* Romans 6 says when you are baptized you

are baptized into His death. You die to the species of Adam. When you come up out of the water, that is your public profession of faith, *"As I rise from the water, I declare I am born again as a child of God. I am now a child of light and I will walk as a child of light."*

Look at the **second message** Peter preached, when five thousand people were born again:

Act 3:18-19 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. (19) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Act 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Peter is saying what Jesus first said, **"Repent and believe the gospel!"** God is awakening the church to the purity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember the previous lessons we have already studied in 1st John. **Christ is the door through which you die to the species of Adam and get reborn as a child of God instead. You repent of your life in Adam, you die in Christ to sin, and you are raised in newness of life. You die a sinner, you are reborn in the image of Christ. Now walk as the child of God you are!**

Rom 6:1-4 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

IMPORTANT ... it is not just something you say and try to accomplish with human effort. That is religion. That is human energy. That would be the Romans chapter seven guy. No, to "believe the gospel" is to believe what John has been testifying in this epistle to what Jesus taught over fifty years ago. Here is the short review again,

1. *God is light and so are you.*
2. *There is no darkness in Him and there is none in you.*
3. *You don't have to sin anymore.*
4. *If you do commit "a" sin you have an advocate with the Father.*
5. *Don't think you can live a lifestyle of sin and have fellowship with God. You can't.*
6. *The world hates you. Don't love the world or the things in the world.*

7. *You are a citizen of heaven.*
8. *As He is, so are you, in this world.*

The gospel is that God, by grace, has done a supernatural work in you by placing within you the same LIFE that raised Jesus from the dead. I say again, Jesus is our prototype. He has already "**road tested**" the LIFE of God for us. We see that life in action in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Now that LIFE is in you and you are made like Him. That's why John says, "**As He is, so are we, in this world.**" If that does not describe you ... the time is now, the kingdom of God is available to you, repent of sin, and believe the gospel.

BE WHO HE HAS MADE YOU. WALK AS THE CHILD OF GOD YOU ARE.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Why is there no fear? In context ... because you have "known and believed" the love God has to you. You believe that Jesus is the Son of God and you have accepted Him as your Lord and Saviour. You keep the Lord's commandments and refuse to live in habitual sin. Even if you commit "a" sin, you still know and believe the love He has toward you and you run to him in repentance and confession of your sin, and the blood of Jesus cleanses you from all unrighteousness. **You walk as a child of God because you are a child of God.** He loves you. You know it. You believe it. You live your life according to it. There is no reason to fear. If you are still in fear of standing before Him on judgement day ... your "knowing and believing" His love to you has not yet matured to the point you are walking like Him. Keep growing in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and you will because ... **as He is, so are you, in this world.** Be encouraged, remember that all of us who are connected to the vine are in a constant state of growth, being pruned by the Father to bring forth more and more fruit.

Joh 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. (2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Mar 4:26-29 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; (27) And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. (28) For the earth bringeth forth fruit of

herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. (29) But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

THE HARVEST WILL COME! THE FRUIT WILL MATURE ON YOUR LIMBS!

The method is the same for all ... keep the seed of Christ and His words in the ground of your heart, and water that seed abundantly by praying in the Holy Ghost:

SEED

Joh 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. [Disciple-As I am, so are you, in this world.]

WATER

Jud 1:20-21 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves [MATURING THE FRUIT] on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

1Jn 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Don't ever forget who loved first! God loved you first. God loved you while you were still a sinner. You think He loves you less now that you are His child? Ridiculous!

Mat 18:12-14 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? (13) And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. (14) Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

HE REJOICES OVER YOU! He rejoices watching you, His child, mature the same way every parent rejoices watching their little ones grow up.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

1Jn 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

In this whole study, my assignment has been to find the teachings of Jesus in what John is writing because John plainly said he is simply telling what he has "seen and heard" Jesus teach over fifty years prior. As I was meditating and praying in the spirit regarding this passage, I was a little surprised at which teaching of Jesus floated up to my mind;

Luk 6:22-23 **Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. (23) Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**

I was a little surprised until I remembered the context of John's whole epistle ... remember earlier in the letter ... **the world hates you the same way Cain hated Abel.** Yet God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ... so that the world through Him might be saved. **Jesus told us the world will hate us. If we respond to the world with hate ... how will the love of God be able to flow through us to reach the world?** That is the whole reason why God had to leave us here instead of taking us to heaven the instant we were born again. Each of us has a part to fulfill in the body of Christ to reach this lost world. **If we hate when we are hated ... the salt has lost its savor! Don't hide the light of Christ from the world under a bushel of hate filled flesh.**

Mat 5:13-16 **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing [useless for the kingdom], but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. (15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Let your light shine ... context ... God is light ... you are a child of light ... let your light shine in the darkness of this world. **Love those that hate you** ... context ... God is love ... you are a child of love ... let the love of God flow through you to those who hate you. Be salt and be light to this lost world of people that God loves and is trying to save! **LOVE does not always mean absence of controversy.** Here is a great example:

Mat 10:34-37 **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. (35) For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in**

law. (36) And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. (37) He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Jesus uses even stronger words in Luke's gospel:

Luk 14:26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

This sort of language makes no sense at all to the world. But it makes perfect sense to those born of God's Spirit. In many families, the first one to become a Christian is hated by the other members of the family. For example, this was often true in Jewish families, who would often have a mock burial and declare "*my child is dead. You are no longer my child. I will give your inheritance to your brothers and sisters.*" The HATE can be severe.

Pastor Dave always says, "*If you hate your family, love them more than you love Jesus.*" To keep down the controversy, the hate they have toward them, some might "appease" their family by saying what they want to hear instead of holding fast to the truth of the gospel.

LOVE DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN AVOIDING CONTROVERSY! LOVE IS WILLING TO BE HATED WHILE IT STILL LOVES THEM BY TELLING THEM THE TRUTH.

We must think with eternity in mind. We must love with eternity in mind. We must be light, and we must be salt. We must be willing to be hated while we love them. (Pastor Dave would say he would love people, thinking at first, they would love him back, when what they were really doing was looking for another place in his back where they could put a knife.)

If we are to love our enemies, it only stands to reason we are to love our fellow Christian ...no matter how much we may disagree with him. Remember that Peter disagreed with the Lord. He actually rebuked the Lord saying, "*This shall not be unto you!*" Jesus ... in love ... turned his back to him ... and told him the truth ... using very harsh words ... get thee behind me Satan ... while loving Peter every single minute. Jesus did not reject Peter. In fact, Jesus went to great lengths to restore Peter back to fellowship with Him, and eventually Peter was restored. But Jesus never compromised the truth one iota in order to do it.

1Jn 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Jesus loved every person He saw. **He demonstrated that love by telling them the truth no matter if they hated Him for it.** He manifested God's love by healing the sick, casting out devils, opening the eyes of the blind, forgiving sin, being patient and longsuffering with those who were slow to learn ... but **Jesus never compromised the Word of God in order to appease anybody.** Love God first. Love man second. But love man, no matter what He does to you. Pray for him and forgive him even while he is nailing you to a cross. That is the love of God that flows through you! It is a love not of this world, but it does flow through you. Remember the first fruit of the newborn spirit is ... LOVE! It is in you. It may start off like a grain of mustard seed, but it has the capacity to take over your whole garden.

Dave would say, every sinner has the capacity of evil to go all the way to a Hitler or a Stalin. It depends on who has you. In the same way, every Christian has the capacity to go all the way to the love of God in Christ. It depends on Who has you? It is the Holy Spirit who sheds abroad the love of God within you. You release His anointing to mature that love in you as you do Jude 20,

Jud 1:20-21 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, (21) **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**