

The First Epistle of John

(Week 48 – 1John 5:1-5 – part3)

Text: 1John 5:1-5 (ESV), *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

I. Review:

A. 1John 5:1-5

1. We looked at the first vital sign of the New Birth:

a. Belief in Jesus as the Christ and Son of God (vv. 1, 5)

b. Love for God’s children (v. 1b)

i. We love His children by obeying His commands

ii. Even Church discipline is an act of love

1. Hebrews 12:6:

➤ God disciplines those He loves

2. Galatians 6:1-2:

➤ Those who are spiritual are to restore the brother caught up in a transgression

➤ Christ’s law (love) calls us to help each other overcome sin.

3. James 5:19-20:

➤ Restoring your brother will save his soul from death

4. The goal of Church Discipline is to get the brother/sister to repent.

II. A closer look at love and church discipline:

A. Read 1Corinthians 5

1. **Question: Verses 2 and 6 speaks of the Corinthians being proud. Give some insight as to how they might have been showing pride in this matter?**

a. Perhaps they were treating God’s grace as a license for immorality (cf. Jude 1:4)

b. Perhaps they were giving into the fear of man by not addressing the sin.

c. Perhaps they had no concern (or misguided ‘love’) for the brother’s soul.

d. Perhaps they were seeing themselves as being “pleasing to God” by emphasizing the “good things” that were going on--like some of the churches in Revelation that were tolerating false teachers/doctrines within the congregation.

2. In verse 11-13, God, through Paul, commands us show proper love by purging the sexual immoral, the greedy, the slanderer and the swindler from the church!

a. A practical example of how to love an expelled brother:

i. You encounter an excommunicated brother:

1. Wrong way: “We miss you, come back and worship with us.”

➤ **Question: Why is this approach wrong?**

a. Because the brother has been expelled.

b. He did not voluntarily leave the church, he was ex-communicated.

2. Right way: “Brother, how does it feel to be apart from the Lord and His people?”

3. **If the ex-communicated brother speaks evil of the Church**
 - **Remind him that it was he who did wrong, not the Church.**
 - a. **Remind him that God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6).**
 - b. **Remind him of the purpose of church discipline, which is to help the purged brother to realize his error and to truly repent before God like the prodigal son in Luke 15 or David in Psalm 51.**
 - **Warn him not to disrespect God's people**
 - a. **Warn him that speaking against God's people who are trying to be obedient to His word will be very disastrous,**
 - b. **Haman, in the book of Esther, built a gallows to hang Mordecai and tried to destroy God's people**
 - c. **As a result, Haman was the one hanged.**
 - **Show your love by letting him know that you will pray for him to realize the seriousness of his circumstance. Then move on about your business.**
 4. **If a brother is purged from the church, he should be purged from your contact list on Facebook, MySpace, etc.**
- B. Question: How should you treat a brother who falls away?**
1. **Warn them of the seriousness of their choice to leave Christ and His Church.**
 2. **Urge them to return to the Lord.**
 3. **Remind them that hell is not worth it!**
- C. Question: How about those who cause divisions? Who is considered "divisive?"**
1. **Anyone who spreads false teachings by their smooth talk and flattery (Romans 16:17)**
 2. **Anyone who causes division among brothers, like slanderers (Proverbs 6:19)**
- D. Question: How should you treat a divisive brother?**
1. **Warn them of the seriousness of their action (Titus 3:10):**
 - a. **Share with them Proverbs 6:16-19, where it says God hates the one who sows discord (disunity) among brothers.**
 - b. **If they deny that they are being divisive, show them how their actions are causing division:**
 - i. **If they have a problem with a person(s), they should be going directly to that person(s) and promote peace and unity.**
 - c. **Remind them that a child of God promotes peace (Mt. 5:9)**
 - d. **If they do not listen to your first and second warning, have nothing to do with them (Titus 3:10)**
 - e. **A brother who refuses to repent of divisiveness is considered by God to be warped, sinful and self-condemned.**

III. Conclusion

A. This is how we show love to the brothers!

1. **We must love them God's way, not culture's way!**
2. **If they are caught up in a transgression, love them by addressing the sin**
3. **If they refuse to repent, show your love for them by doing what God says: warning them as a brother and keep away from them so that they may be ashamed of their actions (2Thess. 3:14-15).**
4. **If we do not love the brethren the way God tells us to love them, then we are not acting in love**
5. **To call church discipline "unloving" is to sit in judgment of God.**