

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 7- The Test of Love

#### 55. The Law of Love Part 3

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WAOY Thursday 07/19/07; WOSM Friday 12/16/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to examine what John taught about "The Law of Love". So, let's open our Bibles to **1John 2:7-11** and read those verses again together:

**7** Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

**8** On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

**9** The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

**10** The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

**11** But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Now on the last broadcast, we saw how that the command to love the brethren is both an old command and a new command. And on today's broadcast- I want to draw your attention to the last part of verse 8- so let's read that verse again together:

**... which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.**

Notice here that John says that this "thing" is true in Him and in

you. What John is saying here is that loving the brethren is not something that Jesus did, and we are free not to do. No, John is linking our love for the brethren with Jesus' love for the brethren. Again, in our discussion- we need to remember that the term, "brethren" is used to describe all of those who are genuinely saved- both male and female. But it is specifically excluding those men and women who are lost.

Now it is true that we are supposed to love those who are lost- but in this Epistle- John is primarily dealing with what defines a genuine believer- not how to win lost people to Jesus- so he is dealing with what should go on inside the believer in particular and inside the Church in general so that false teaching and false doctrine can be exposed for what it is- a counterfeit.

We need to remember beloved that when John wrote this Epistle- the Church was under a horrendous attack from both within and without by Gnostic mystics and Greek philosophers to redefine what Christianity and the Church is. So, John was moved along by the Holy Spirit to pen down these inspired words to set the standard for what is and what is not Truth and who is and who is not truly saved.

In verses 3 through 6 of **1John 2**- John taught that a genuinely saved person will keep the commandments of God as a normal way of life and that anyone who makes the claim to be saved and yet does not keep God's commandments is a liar and the Truth is not in him.

Now here in verses 7-11 John puts forth his second test of true Salvation by teaching that all of those who are saved will love all of those who are saved.

Why is this true? John answers in verse 8-

**... because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.**

John says that the reason that saved people obey Jesus Christ and the reason that saved people love saved people is because the darkness that gripped and consumed their lives at one time is now past and the light has now shined.

So, then Darkness is defined by John as loving yourself more than loving God and Darkness is defined by John as doing what is right in your own eyes as opposed to obeying the commands of Jesus Christ- Whom John taught was God.

Now this is the key to a true understanding of Biblical Salvation.

Some people teach today that Salvation is a process- but the Bible teaches that Salvation is an event. Some teach that we are “being saved”- but the Bible teaches that we were saved at a particular moment.

Some teach that the process of Salvation begins at infant baptism and extends all the way through your life into a couple of hundred thousand years in Purgatory- but the Bible doesn't teach that nonsense.

Some teach today that Baptism grants the person special graces by which the Salvation process begins to go to work in our lives. Others teach that without speaking in tongues- the Spirit of God is not in us and if the Spirit of God is not in us- we are not Christ's, so these people teach that in order to be saved- you have to speak in tongues. Still others teach that by “making a decision”- that that effort on our part causes us to be saved.

Now I don't believe for a minute that anyone who has thought about these things for any length of time set out to be wrong about how to be saved- but the fact of the matter is that people *do* teach wrongly about Salvation and that is not okay.

I mean look at what we just discussed. I just gave you five different ways that people teach today on how to be saved- and they are all different. So, by definition they cannot all be right.

So, someone is teaching falsely about how to be saved- and since Salvation is the single most important subject in the world- don't you think that we need to get this right?

Now everybody on earth has an opinion about this. But we have to understand, beloved that our opinions are not reliable when it comes to eternal matters. Our opinions are not trustworthy to take us from earth to Heaven.

Our opinions may be sincere; they may be well intentioned. They may be earnest. But if they are not right- they are wrong. And if we are wrong about how to be saved- what difference does it make what else we believe?

Listen to me. I am not saying now, and I have never said that I am right and everybody who disagrees with me is wrong. I have never said that, and I don't believe that. But what I *do* believe is that God is right and that you and I both must work real hard to make sure that we agree with Him and if we don't agree with God- we are left out in the cold.

But when we are dealing with eternal issues- these things are too important to just slough off; they are too vital to sub out to some television preacher who sounds clever. The issue of where I am going to spend eternity is far too important an issue for me not to know for sure.

And God agrees with that logic. And so, God moved upon over 40 holy men and during a 1500 year time frame these men who lived on four different continents-many of whom never met each other- wrote down special and unique Words. These words are God breathed Words. These Words have been exhaled by the very Mouth of God Himself. These words are different from any other words in any other book on earth.

These Words are inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative, and relevant Words that are rock solid and trustworthy and reliable and eternal and that never change and that are absolute.

And God superintended the process of writing these Words down and God superintended the process of gathering all of these Words together and God superintended the process of putting all 66 of these Books into one source- the Holy Bible and it is from this one single source that we are to develop everything that we believe about God and Jesus and Salvation and Heaven and Hell and the Church and how to live and what is holy and what is profane and how to get married and how to raise your family and how to handle your money and who gets to lead in the Church and what do we teach and what do we preach and what is truth and what is a lie.

The Reformers taught that we should not develop any Doctrine that does not come from Scripture and from Scripture alone. In Latin, that concept is called "Sola Scriptura"- and it means- "from the Scripture alone." Sola Scriptura teaches that Popes and Bishops and pastors and Church Councils and dreams and angelic visitations and visions and prophecies all have their place- but all of them put together cannot hold a candle to the Scriptures- they cannot be trusted; they cannot be relied upon; they cannot be used to develop Doctrine because as well- meaning as they may be; as sincere as they may be- they are not inspired; they are not inerrant; they are not infallible; and they are not authoritative like Scripture is.

Now most people would agree with Sola Scriptura in principle- but it is when we put Sola Scriptura into practice when all the fireworks go off.

To put Sola Scriptura into practice means that when a well-meaning pastor or bishop or elder or pope teaches anything that contradicts Scripture- that man is wrong, and Scripture is right. Putting Sola Scriptura into practice means that when a Church Council makes a ruling which is in conflict with Scripture – we are to ignore that ruling and we are to obey Scripture. And putting Sola Scriptura into practice also means that when someone says that God told them something or that Jesus appeared to them, or an angel came to them or they had a vision or they give a prophecy and that manifestation in any way shape or form contradicts Scripture- then that manifestation is not from God and we are to reject it quickly and completely.

The issue here is inspiration. We use that word today much too loosely and it has lost its meaning. We think that if something motivates us- that it is inspiring. We think that if a song or a sermon or a book or a card or a statement moves us to action; or motivates us to an emotional response that it is inspiring. We could even say that an athletic event is inspiring in that it was a great performance and had an effect upon us.

But that is not what the Bible means when it tells us in **2 Timothy 3:16** that all Scripture came by way of inspiration. This is the Greek word, *theopneustos*- which literally means that it was breathed out by God; or that it was exhaled by the very Mouth of God. And that claim is not made for anything *except* Scripture.

Paul himself was not inspired- the Bible doesn't teach that. It was the *words* that Paul wrote that were inspired. And not all of Paul's words were inspired either- but only those special and unique words that were put into the Bible- *those* words of Paul and *those* words of Peter and *those* words of John and those words of Moses and the others are the only words that these men ever spoke or wrote that were breathed out by God.

Now by default- that makes these words to be unique and special and different from any other words spoken by any other person at any time in history. No song; no sermon; no book; no statement by any man or any Church for any reason- no matter how sincere or how well meaning it may be and no matter how it may move us or motivate us is inspired by God- except those special and unique words that are contained in the 66 Books of the Holy Bible.

God may well use these things and they may well be a blessing to

us in many, many ways- but they are not inspired by God, and they are not infallible and they are not inerrant and they are not authoritative and they are not to be used to develop or formulate Divine Truth or Doctrine.

Listen. We are free to shop wherever we want to. We can wear whatever color dress we feel like wearing. We can get a dog and name him anything we want. We can marry someone and have as many children as we want to. We can root for any sports team that suites our fancy. We can live in any city we choose, and we can drive whatever car we can afford.

But when it comes to Truth; when it comes to Divine Revelation; When it comes to Biblical Doctrine; when it comes to Salvation- we are not free to wing it; and we are not free to make it up; and we are not free to go by our gut or how we feel; or to follow our dreams or to go by our visions or the angelic visitations or the golden tablets or the prophecies or the signs and wonders because we cannot trust them and they have proven to be unreliable and they have proven to be broken and false and carnal and sensual and fleshly and presumptuous; and they have proven to be contradictory; and base; and human; and wrong.

And because Man is fallen- then everything that is breathed out by Man contains an element of darkness in it. But because Jesus is nothing but Light- then everything that comes out of the Mouth of God is true.

Eternal Truth cannot be trusted to come from any other source other than that one single source that God has authorized- and that one single source is the Scriptures. So, the Apostle John says here in verse 8 that the darkness is now past- Jesus has come; the Bible is completed; Eternal truth has been breathed out and we rejoice in that.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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