

SERMON 4 OF FIRST JOHN

Hermeneutics REVIEW

1. OBSERVATION-What do I SEE? (5 Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why)
2. CONTEXTUALIZATION-What SURROUNDS?
3. CORRELATION-OTHER CLEAR Scripture? (Start with text within same book.)
4. INTERPRETATION-What does it MEAN?
5. APPLICATION-How does this APPLY to me?
6. TRANSFORMATION-How does this CHANGE me?

CONTEXT: Read the text from past teachings 1 JOHN:1:1-2:2,

which is about having intimacy with God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit AND THE APOSTLE'S DESIRE TO INVITE YOU AND I INTO KOINONIA WITH GOD **AND** WITH EACH OTHER AS CHILDREN OF THE SAME FATHER AND SPIRITUAL FATHERS OF THE FAITH!

John now adds the Secret Ingredient of how to have KOINONIA with other believers...

Can you guess what it is? (Obedience to God which manifests itself in Agape Love for others: The most important teaching of Jesus)

1John 2:3 By this we know (Gk. Ginosko) that we have come to know (Gk. Ginosko) Him, (Jesus the propitiation of our sins) *if we keep His commandments.* ⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know (Gk. Ginosko) Him,” and does *not* keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides (Gk. Meno=dwell, stay, remain) in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. 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 (John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another)., 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 (Gk. Meno) 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 (Gk. Oida) where he is going because the *darkness* has blinded his eyes.

Let’s break this text down now even further...

1John 2:3 By this we know (Gk. Ginosko) that we have come to know (Gk. Ginosko) Him, *if we keep His commandments.*

THE MORE WE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD THE MORE WE “KNOW” ABOUT HIM
 Fellowship naturally leads to knowing the One with whom that fellowship takes place. *Even on the level of human experience this is true.* **If a father and son live apart, they will not know each other as well as if they lived together, even though their parent-child relationship continues to exist.**

The MORE we LOVE GOD and are obedient to Him the greater our FELLOWSHIP

.....if we keep His commandments.

POINT: THE COMMANDMENTS John is speaking of are specific and he will sometimes use the word Commandment (Singular) with Commandments (Plural) which are VERY closely related if we let John explain HIS MEANING...☺

Look where John explains what “Commandment (s) mean TO HIM!

NOTE: John’s Inclusio: AGAPE LOVE!... Everything John talks about from A to B is AGAPE LOVE

1John 3:23-24 This is His commandment (S), that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments (P), abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

NOTE:

1. Commandments can be singular, because it is impossible to AGAPE LOVE ONE ANOTHER without being a believer, who possesses the Holy Spirit!
2. John is using the benchmark of AGAPE LOVE as the “TEST OF DISCIPLESHIP” because a believer cannot claim to be a disciple of Jesus, unless they are loving others in the same way Jesus loves us!

Let’s do a little “Correlation” on the teaching of Jesus from the BOOK OF JOHN!

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love (agape) for one another.”

ALL the Commandments of Jesus summed up in Two=Love God Love others!

1John 2:3 By this we know (Gk. Ginosko) that we have come to know (Gk. Ginosko) Him, if we keep His commandments.

⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know (Gk. Ginosko) Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

“Keeps His word”...Could be sum-total of Jesus teachings (ALL the words He spoke on earth, or even the WHOLE BIBLE”, however the close proximity to

Jesus commandments in **See 3:23-24**, argues for a simpler meaning as follows...Whoever is a believer in Christ and loves/agape's others, finds the Love of God perfected, which also serves as a warning to the early Gnostic anti-Christ's!

ONLY in believers has the Love of God been received and acted upon!

⁶ *the one who says he **abides** (Gk. Meno=dwell, stay, remain) **in Him** ought himself to walk in the same manner as **He** walked.*

This verse introduces a NEW KEY WORD in 1 John, *in fact I would say right behind "believe/pisteuo" John's SECOND FAVORITE WORD, "Abide/Meno"*

If someone, (believer or one who claims to be a disciple of Jesus) says they "Abide" with our God in the flesh, then let the fruit of their fellowship result in Christlikeness! For John, this simple test of FELLOWSHIP is "ARE YOU LOVING OTHERS THE WAY JESUS LOVES YOU"?

THERE ARE TWO THINGS I FEEL COMPELLED TO DO AT THIS POINT...

Make sure you FULLY understand **TWO Greek words** that are essential to John's teaching in this book...ABIDE and AGAPE!

Bear with me as there continue to be new folks who join us every week and I want to make sure we are all on the same page in this Book Study

1. **LOVE/agape**
2. **ABIDE/Meno**

Let's look at the latter one first....

Light in a room story (TURN ALL LIGHTS OFF AND ON)

You walk in a dark room, the light switch is tripped...are you abiding in the light? **NO...**(**NOW TURN THE LIGHTS BACK ON**) Are you **NOW** abiding in the LIGHT?...**NO, NOT YET!!!!!!** **SO LET'S SAY**, You start to dance in the light of the room and you unroll a sleeping bag and settle in embracing the light within the room...are you **NOW ABIDING** in the Light?...**YES!!!!**

ABIDE (GK. Meno=to dwell, stay, remain, to make you home with)

AS WE WILL SEE MOVING FORWARD, THE WORD “ABIDE” IS ANOTHER ONE OF JOHN’S KEY WORDS IN THIS BOOK! Every believer has a need to ABIDE in Christ AND His teachings...

IN fact, this is an important condition of becoming a disciple of Jesus: (Believer/Disciple)

John 8:31 *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **continue** (GK. Meno/Abide) **in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine”*

POINT: You can read God’s Word, BUT is its home IN YOU?

POINT: Jesus ABIDES with you through H/S, BUT are you abiding WITH HIM?

REPEAT after me...

“ABIDING” WITH JESUS” IS A “DAILY CHOICE” - AND THE KEY TO PERSONAL INTIMACY OR FELLOWSHIP - WITH GOD”.

When you get up tomorrow, Try This...”Good morning Jesus”

Or “Well Jesus, How do you want me to handle this person”?

Or “Well Jesus, How do you want me to handle this situation”?

Jesus GAVE ALL OF HIMSELF to you, *so the real question is will YOU give all of YOURSELF to Him?*

I SAID THERE WERE TWO THINGS I FELT COMPELLED TO DO...

Do you remember the other one?

AGAPE LOVE IS A CHOICE, IT IS NOT A FEELING!!!!

The Greek word *agape* is often translated “love” in the New Testament. How is “agape love” different from other types of love? The essence of agape love is goodwill, benevolence, and willful delight in the object of love. Unlike our English word *love*, *agape* is not used in the New Testament to refer to romantic or sexual love. Nor does it refer to close friendship or brotherly love, for which the Greek word *philia* is used. Agape love involves faithfulness, commitment, and an act of the will. It is distinguished from the other types of love by its lofty moral nature and strong character. Agape love is beautifully described in 1 Corinthians 13.

1 Corinthians 13

AGAPE LOVE IS A CHOICE, NOT A FEELING!!!!!!

Can't read this text enough....It should be tattooed on each of our hearts!