We are of God!
1 John 3:10-4:6
Lesson 17

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
April 27, 2014
Key Concepts in 1 John

▷ The beginning
  • Word of life – eternal life (1:1; 2:24-25)
  • New (and old) commandment to love one another (2:7 3:11)
  • Christ (2:13-14)
  • The devil (3:8)

▷ The message
  • 1:3 – Fellowship with the Father and Son – “partnership”
  • 1:5 – God is Light – no darkness in Him – truth and purity/righteousness
  • 3:11 – Love one another – God’s love in us
Reason for Writing

- Your sins are forgiven (2:12)
- You know Jesus Christ (2:13, 14)
- You have overcome the devil (2:13, 14)
- You know the Father (2:13)
- You are strong and the Word abides in you (2:14)
- You know the truth which excludes a lie (2:21)
John’s Purpose

- Joy made complete (1:4)
- That you may not sin (2:1)
- An old and a new commandment – love one another (2:7-8)
- To warn about those who would deceive you (2:26)
- That you may know you have eternal life (5:13)
Defining Principle of Eternal Life

- God’s character:
  - Light – truth and purity (1:5)
  - Righteousness (2:29)
  - Love (4:8, 16)
  - Truth (5:6)
Opposing Spheres

World (children of the devil)
- 2:2; 4:4; 5:19 – Domain of sin and the devil
- 2:15-17 – No divine (true) love
- 2:16-17 – Domain of lust (flesh, eyes, pride of life)
- 3:1 – No knowledge of God and His children
- 3:13 – Hatred for believers
- 4:1, 3 – Domain of false prophets
- 4:5 – Domain of unbelievers (of the world) – language of the world
- 4:17 – Place where Christ and believers live
- 5:4-5 – Dominion overcome by new birth and faith in Christ

Rev. 11:15 – Kingdom of world to become Kingdom of Christ (Gen. 9:8-17)
Opposing Spheres

- **Born of God (children of God)**
  - 2:29 – Practices righteousness
  - 3:9 – Does not and cannot practice sin
  - 4:7 – Loves one another
  - 4:7 – Knows God
  - 5:1 – Believes Jesus is the Christ
  - 5:4 – Overcomes the world by faith
  - 5:18 – Does not sin; kept by the Son of God; kept from the power of the devil
1 John

Introduction (1:1-4)

- Writing about the Word of Life – eternal life
- The one true faith from the beginning – now revealed in Christ
- A fellowship/partnership with Father and Son
- Complete joy
1 John

God is Light (1:5-2:28)

- The Christian life is abiding in the Light as He is in the Light
- Jesus Christ the Righteous Advocate – Propitiation
- Obedience, love, truth
- Opponents: world and false prophets – darkness
- The Anointing (Holy Spirit)
- Abide in Him in anticipation of His coming
1 John

- Born of God (2:29-4:6)
  - We are the children of God, a work in progress – fulfilled at His coming
  - Children of God purify themselves – practice righteousness
  - Those born of the devil sin
  - Christ came to destroy the works of the devil
  - God’s seed abides in us and we cannot sin
  - Evidence of God’s seed – righteousness and love
We are of God! (3:10-4:6)

› Truth from the beginning (3:10-18)
› Love in deed and Truth (3:19-24)
› Jesus Christ is the Truth (4:1-6)
Truth from the Beginning (3:10-18)

- Those born of God are righteous and love one another (3:10)
- A principle from the beginning – Cain and Abel
  - Cain killed Abel
  - Abel – faith in God the Rewarder (Hebrews 11:6)
  - Cain hated Abel for his righteousness
- The world hates the righteous (John 3:19-21)
- The proper order: life, then love (3:14-15)
- The highest example – Christ (3:16-17)
  - We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren
  - We ought to open provide for the temporal needs of the brethren
- Love is not mere words but in deed and truth (3:18)
Love in Deed and Truth (3:19-24)

- Love in deed and truth assures our hearts that we are of the truth (3:19)

- What if our heart condemns us?
  - 1:6 – if we sin and claim fellowship – we lie and do not practice the truth
  - 1:8 – if we deny sin – we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us

- How can we have confidence?
  - God is greater than our hearts
  - Christ is the propitiation and Advocate with the Father
  - Our life is testimony to our relationship with Christ
  - Our life is inadequate to fully attest to our trust in Christ
Confidence before God (3:22-24)

- He hears our prayers
  - Psalm 66:18
  - Prayers aligned with His will – not our own lusts
- Two commandments – with promise
  - Believe in the name of Jesus Christ
  - Love one another
- He bears testimony to the presence of His Son by His Spirit (3:24)
Jesus Christ is the Truth (4:1-6)

▶ Many false prophets.
  • 2 Cor. 11:13-15 – disguised as angels of light
  • Genesis 3:1-4 – “Did God say?” . . . and then flatly denied the truth
  • 1 Peter 5:8 – a roaring lion

▶ The Truth shall make you free! (John 8:31-37)
Test the spirits

- The “spirit” empowering the prophet – is the false spirit
- The test from Scripture: Jesus Christ came in the flesh
- Pre-existence of Jesus Christ – Trinitarian doctrine
- Incarnation
  - Revelation of God – God-Man
  - Redemption and reconciliation – Work of Christ
  - Resurrection – Deity of Christ
  - Return – creation renewed
- Spirit of anti-Christ denies these truths
Two Spheres – a Settled Outcome

- You are from God – Christ in you
- They are from the world – they speak to themselves
- We are from God – we speak to believers (John 10:27)
- Christ in you is greater than the world
- You have overcome the wicked one by faith in Christ
- The truth itself is the test of the spirit of truth and the spirit of error
We are of God!

- Two spheres – two families
- Children of the devil and Children of God
- Transition is the new birth followed by faith in Christ
- The evidence is from the seed of God within
  - Truth – Jesus Christ has come in the flesh
  - Love in deed and truth – righteousness and love
  - This is the truth from the beginning