

Book of 1 John Series
Message 6
March 17, 2024

Opening Prayer

We started the book with understanding that Jesus is real and He continues to impact us daily not just during His time as deity in flesh
We talked about light and the power of light to drive out darkness and that mankind often prefers darkness and hiding our deeds to being exposed to light.
We looked at the importance of the blood; both the blood of animals and the blood of Jesus that purifies us from all sin. These were the Get-To's
Then to what we actually believe and live out.

1 John 2: 7-14 Amplified Version

⁷⁻⁸ My dear friends, I'm not writing anything new here. This is the oldest commandment in the book, and you've known it from day one. It's always been implicit in the Message you've heard. On the other hand, perhaps it is new, freshly minted as it is in both Christ and you—the darkness fading away and the True Light already blazing!⁹⁻¹¹ Anyone who claims to live in God's light and hates a brother or sister is still in the dark. It's the person who loves brother and sister who dwells in God's light and doesn't block the light from others. But whoever hates is still in the dark, stumbles around in the dark, doesn't know which end is up, blinded by the darkness.

This is the oldest commandment –Love the Lord your God and Love your neighbor as yourself.

This week, I think that what John is telling us is pretty straight forward.

What John was addressing again is dualism. He is contending, once again that:
it is all connected.
It is about solid foundations.

This was a consistent theme of our parenting with the boys as they were testing the boundaries and asking for more and more independence and freedom to do what they thought best.

It is all connected, the “get-to's” and “got-to's”

Loving your brother or sister is a part of the whole package, not a separate piece that we get to choose yes or no, at some cosmic salad bar of options for obedience.

We are all still in transition. We will always be in transition as we work to become solid in the foundational ways of God, **they are not one and done.**

Recently, I was watching a documentary on Castles and Palaces. This particular palace was built on a mountain overlooking the valley below, it may have been Neuschwanstein in Bavaria.

The foundations were built solid, but the weather changes often with a lot of snow and freeze/thaw.

This puts a great deal of strain on the foundation, and it is in consistent need of upkeep and repair, because even though it is mostly solid, the expansion and contraction of water getting into any cracks and expanding can weaken the structural integrity of it. It is reparable, but needs tending to on a regular basis.

JUST LIKE OUR FOUNDATIONS DO.

What John may be saying here is don't forget the early commandment and become so "enlightened" that you ignore the foundational basics.

Don't get too big for your britches!!

Maybe we have either forgotten or have been unaware.

So, let's review this part:

If we hate our brother or sister, we are still in the dark

John is coming back to the themes of Light and Love - Darkness and Sin
Something that comes to mind is that living in darkness is like not having an "open heaven" Once you get used to living in light and love – you immediately feel when you are in darkness.

You feel shut off from God and community

The opposite can also be true.

Living in darkness can seem normal and we can get comfortable living in that place

On the screen, there is a picture

Let's use this picture and apply it to this passage.

This tree, at this point thinks that having barbed wire running thru it is normal and has gotten used to the wire being there. It may even be giving the tree some additional stability. But the wire is a "bad friend."

The tree grew around it and is comfortable with the way things are, even though it is not right.

Sometimes, there are behaviors, people, relationship in our lives that are the same way. We have grown numb to their existence and never really consider that change, though painful, might be necessary for living in the Light.

11: But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness.

Pretty strong words, but also true.

Remember, the truth will set you free!

But usually for me, the truth will make me mad. (reaction), then it will set me free (response).

So, what are some causes of hate?

Misunderstanding

Entitlements

Perception

Feeling unprotected

Miscommunication

Offense

Grievances

Unforgiveness

How is your foundation?

Any of these ring true in some relationship that needs to be addressed?

John has already told us that if we ask for forgiveness – He (Jesus) has already paid the price and is our advocate and atonement.

As I was praying about the text, I wanted to go thru this section more quickly, but was stopped to pause by the Lord. Don't Poo-Poo this section for the sake of speed. This is foundational and there are those that need to dwell here and deal with this part before going on.

Questions:

How is your foundation?

Any cracks or weak spots that need fixed or maintained?

Do you have any relational discord that needs prayer and mending?

These may be spoken or unspoken (private matters)

If time allows, does your family have any Easter traditions?