

ATTESTATION OF GOD'S CHILDREN | 1 John 3:10-24 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 01/08/2023

I. Practice of Sonship (10-12) | II. Promise of Eternity (13-15) | III. Proof of Love (16-18) | IV. Position of Hearts (19-21) | V. Profit of Abiding (22-24)

INTRO: Today, we return to our regular teaching series through 1st John. The series is called **KNOWING GOD** because the apostle John desired for God's children to be assured of their relationships, their conduct, and their future as born-again believers. – I've entitled today's sermon: **ATTESTATION OF GOD'S CHILDREN | 1 John 3:10-24** // **To Attest, or Attestation can mean Confirmation, Verification, Evidence or Proof.** – In this next section, I see five points that John provides his audience with to help them **KNOW** that they genuinely belong to God (*List 5 points*)

I. PRACTICE OF SONSHIP (10-12): READ TEXT – You may have heard such phrases as: **“Practice what you Preach”** or **“Practice makes Perfect.”** In this context, our practice reveals who we belong to! (C.O.G. or C.O.D.?) It's almost as if John is saying... **“Who's your Daddy?”**

A. Evident to All (10) – What we **DO** reveals who we are! **RIGHTEOUS** or **UNRIGHTEOUS...** (C.O.G. or C.O.D.?) – You don't need a paternity test; **this is a spiritual test!** The answer is obvious to all! (*A person of Flesh or Spirit?*) **(C.O.G.'s) are also...**

B. Expected To Love (11) – Why? **Because God is Love!** – John understood this well and he knew the importance of teaching this to God's Children. (*Expound – Love's Characteristics*) – Sometimes, siblings fight with each other, but when our loving Father's comes... He correct us and shows us the Way of Love. // How many times of chastisement will it take for Love to become the motivation for All your actions? Some of us never get it, maybe because we have not love, *as seen in the...*

C. Example of Cain (12) – His actions revealed who his father was (**Gen 4:3-8**) – God set a distinguishing mark upon him. – Notice the **PROGRESSION of HATE:** His work, his doing, his practice was evil, revealing that he was **“of the wicked one.”** **It all began in HIS HEART...** His offering was tainted, which led to Jealousy, which led to hatred, which led to **Murdering his brother, the righteous one!** (*Church...Hatred is the absence of love! And the spirit of hate is currently a wildfire*)

CLOSING THOUGHT: So, **Who's your Daddy?** // For the record I want to be clear, our righteous practice DOES NOT SAVE US! Our righteous practice rather **Confirms us** and **Verifies us, Proving and Attesting** that we belong to God!

II. PROMISE OF ETERNITY (13-15): READ TEXT – (**Rom 6:23**) highlights this section well. **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** // Here, John explains the **vast difference** between the two destinies that exist: **Life & Love** or **Death & Damnation.**

A. Life and Love (13-14a) is anticipated for the (C.O.G.) – John says that **genuine love** for the brethren is an indicator that the (C.O.G.) has **“passed from death to life.”** This is what we are to **focus on** especially in an increasingly hostile world. (*L&L should then be evident in our local churches!*)

- But John also says, **don't be surprised** if **“the world hates us!”** (*Expound*) – In (**John 15:18-19**) Jesus said, **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”** (**John 15:18-19**) – **Don't Marvel!**
- **Knowing** that we are promised eternal life helps us through the difficulties and hard times.
- **Loving our brothers** help strengthen and refocus our perspectives.

B. Death and Damnation (14b-15) is determined for the (C.O.D.) – Those who choose **NOT** to **LOVE** are classified in the same category as CAIN! (*Expound, they are Haters, Murderers, and Dead!*)

- Instead of a **distinguishing mark** from God, these are **identified by their hatred** for others, which stems from their hatred for the Father and the Son! (**John 8:42-44**) *“Jesus said to them [Pharisees], **“If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.**”* ⁴³ *Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are **not able to listen to My word.**”* ⁴⁴ **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

- John reveals the final destination for **Murderers...Death!** This is **“Eternal Separation”** from God! (**Gal 5:21**), **“...those who practices such things WILL NOT inherit the kingdom of God.”** (**Rev 20:15**) declares, **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.** While on this earth these **ABIDE in DEATH**, when in HELL they will **ABIDE IN DAMNATION!**

CLOSING THOUGHT: We all have a Promise of Eternity! Every human being is given the chance to **“Mark their Mark,”** to **“Sign on the Dotted line,”** to **CHOOSE** between **Life & Love** or **Death & Damnation.**

III.PERFORMANCE OF LOVE (16-18): John again returns to exhort the (C.O.G.’s), as he states one of four similar statements of KNOWING in our passage: **(10)** *“In this”* the (C.O.G.) are manifest; **(14)** *“we know”* that we have passed... **(19)** *“By this we know...”* that we are of the Truth! – Here in **(v.16)** we read... *“By this we KNOW love...”* – **LOVE in ACTION** was...

A. Demonstrated by Jesus (16) – His obedience to the Father and willingness to sacrifice His life for ours, served as **The Perfect Example of WHAT Loved Looks Like!** In (**John 10:11**), Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd. The **good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.**”* – **When He denied His own will, He did it because of LOVE.** – **When He and submitted Himself to a painful death on a rugged roman cross, He produced LIFE for the (C.O.G!)**

- We **“Ought”** to do likewise. – **If you want to LOVE like Jesus...then study the CROSS!**

With “that” said, John inserts the...

B. Dilemma of Action (17) – John questions the performance of love amongst the (C.O.G.), by mention of the failure to help with the material needs of a BROTHER. He uniquely labels the lack of effort as one who, **“shuts up his heart...”** // **NO ACTION is STILL ACTION!** – **No Care, No Concern and No Compassion = NO LOVE!**

- Jesus gave a parable to explain this (**Luke 10:30-37**), the Good Samaritan (*Religious passed by*)
- (**Prov 3:27-28**) *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, **when it is in the power of your hand to do so.*** ²⁸ *Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,” When you have it with you. (We should bless others, **Being known for our Love!** We should not have to think twice about helping a brother in need! // Generosity, Gentleness, Grace and Gratitude are **Greatly missing in this world, let’ prepare our hearts to distribute it freely!**)*

C. Decision to Do (18) – John holds believers to **deliberate action** here. Practicing what we Proclaim to be, Saying and Doing what we are Called to be, because **this is what the world desperately needs to see!** In **(James 1:22)**, brother James provides *some spiritual smelling salts* to those who fail in this area, *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* **(James 1:22)** – *(Lop-sided Christians! Big ears...little hands and feet!)*

- Not just **Lip-Service** (*word or tongue only*), but **from the heart**, serving one another!

CLOSING THOUGHT: When (C.O.G.'s) are motivated and follow the example of Jesus' love, their **performance of love will attest that they are truly God's children.** *(Has God provided you with an opportunity to show love? - Go out an bless somebody today – Find a need and Serve them!)*

IV.POSITION OF HEARTS (19-21): In **(v.19)** John focuses in on the **“TRUTH”** in our Consciences, which of course is connected to our heart. We can be either **Assured** or **Accused** in the things we allow.

A. Condemned Hearts (20) When we practice things that are **questionable** or even **not of faith**, it can cause us to become unsure or even ashamed of our actions; *To him who knows to do good and does not do it, it is sin.* – Or as when King David took a national census **(2 Sam 24:10).**

- **Sometimes we blow it folks...** sometimes we just don't live up to our own expectations and we **“feel as failures.”** Other times, we are walking in love, and we still **“feel condemned,”** or maybe you're just too hard on yourself? Maybe it's a demonic harassment attempting to throw you off you game? Whatever the case, John provides good news... **God is greater than our hearts and KNOWS all things!** *(If you honestly feel this way, you can cast it Jesus' feet (1 Pet 5:7)*

B. Confident Hearts (21) Confidence in the Lord is to be sought after and upheld (monitored). **Abiding** in the Lord and **keeping** His commandments **(1 John 2:5)**, adds to this **confident outlook**, as mentioned in **(Psalm 16:8)**, *I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.* – **(Rom 8:1)** tells us that there is, **“... NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”**

- When we **Walk** or **Abide in the Spirit**, we are able to **Discern** and **Diagnose** any ill feeling or attack against us and quickly bring it to the Lord – **This is how you stay confident...** In the Lord, NOT ourselves. **(Prov 3:26)** says, *For the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.*

CLOSING THOUGHT: **God's ultimately knows position of our hearts better than do!** We should have No Guile, No Falsehood or Deceit in our hearts if we are true (C.O.G.'s). – In **(Psalm 51:6)** David wrote that God **“...desired truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.”** – This is why self-examination is required **(Ps 139:23-24)**, this is why **Communion** was established, so that we can know come to God and **be confidence in who He is!**

V. PROFIT OF ABIDING (22-24):

A. Prayer Answered (22) Read **(tt. 2 John 5:14)** – This is possible because we abide with God in a right relationship. – If this is the case...we should pray and ask more! **(Matt 7:7-8).**

- **God desires for us to be importunate intercessors; Satan distracts us to be habitual transgressors!** – However, **SIN blocks** our prayers (**Psalm 66:18-19**), *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.¹⁹ But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. (There is such a joy in answered prayer!)*

B. Proper Directives (23) Believe in Jesus and Love the Brotherhood, these are simple commandments of which we benefit.

C. Presence of the Spirit (24) – As I spend time in the scriptures it seems that the place which God desires for us to dwell is...**IN THE SPIRIT!** We are told to **“WALK”** in the Spirit (**Gal 5:25**), **“PRAY”** in the Spirit (**Eph 6:18**), **“SING”** in the Spirit (**1 Cor 14:15**), and **“ABIDE”** in the Spirit (**4:24**).

- When we are in the Spirit and the Spirit is in us, we function/operate as God designed us!
- **P/A** – it’s a shame that we choose to wander back to linger in the flesh (**tt. Rom 8:6-9**) *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His*

CLOSING THOUGHT: The practice and application of these five points provides the (C.O.G.) with **PROOF** to help them **KNOW** that they genuinely belong to God!