

BRIARWOOD WOMEN OF THE COVENANT MIDWEEK STUDY 1 2 3 JOHN

Elizabeth Bondurant ebondurant@briarwood.org 205- 500 -9812

WEEK 3

I. **Welcome/ Review**

- Week 1 we saw that LIFE is in Jesus! And just as the disciples experienced knowing Him, we are also invited to KNOW Him personally and experientially.
 - o The first Invitation

- Then Week 2 we saw that God is LIGHT ---to truly grow in Him we must come into His light; we must be exposed; and see ourselves rightly as He sees us.
 - o The Second Invitation
 - Tim Keller – It is in the Gospel that we find that we are more sinful than we ever dared to imagine, but we are more loved and forgiven than we have ever dared to hope.

- Week 3 – John is going to link together Light and Love by giving us two tests, rather than more invitations.

II. **Two Tests of Authentic Christianity - 1 John 2: 3 – 11.**

- a. **The Test of Obedience** (the “moral” test) - v. 3- 6 *And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says, “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him; whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

i. Notes...

ii. We are not “justified” BY our sanctification. It is the other way around.

- Dane Ortlund says – Do you want to grow in Christ? Never graduate beyond the Gospel. Move ever deeper into the gospel. The freeness of your outside →in justification is a critical ingredient to fostering your inside→ out sanctification. (*Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners*, p. 94)

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- Thomas Chalmers famously said, “The freer the gospel, the more sanctifying the gospel. The more it is received as a doctrine of grace, the more it will be experienced as a doctrine of godliness.”
 - The Belgic Confession asserts that “far from making people cold toward living in a pious and holy way, this justifying faith, quite to the contrary, so works within them that apart from it they will never do a thing out of love for God but only out of love for themselves and fear of being condemned. (article 24)
- So what John is talking about here --- is OBEDIENCE for the right reasons, not external conformity out of a longing for self-improvement, or honor and esteem, or a longing to escape condemnation, but obedience that comes from true LOVE for God because we ourselves are so FULLY and COMPLETELY loved BY God already.
- This is a different, and a very humble type of obedience. Equally serious, but so very different. And the fruit it produces is different too. The former produces pride, arrogance, moral superiority, or shame, lying, hiding.... But the latter produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- b. **The Test of Love** (A social test) v. 7 – 11 *Beloved, I am writing to you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever 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.*
- i. **It’s not new....**
 - ii. **But it is new... or has been made new**
- ➔ Jesus said in John 13:34 – A new commandment I give to you, that you should love one another, Just as I have loved you, so you also are to love one another. And again, in John 15:12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
- It is NEW in its depth
 - It is NEW in its breadth
 - It is NEW in its IMPORTANCE
 - It is NEW because of its DEMONSTRATION.

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→ How can we love “WELL”?

- ❖ Walk in the Light ...
- ❖ Extend Forgiveness ...
- ❖ Let Go of Anger ...
- ❖ Love God Enough....

III. **Reminders for the Journey**

1 John 2:12-14 *I am writing to you little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and because the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

- *He pauses here--- to speak to seasons of our journey in him--- but each for each season he offers reassurance.*

- *Little Children*

- *Fathers*

- *Young Men*

IV. **Conclusion/ Takeaway**

We cannot rush our stages, but we must pursue faithfulness where we are, and cultivate a love for God's Word and a constant appreciation for the forgiveness that we enjoy and a passion to persevere well by staying in the LIGHT!!!!

Ephesians 3:14-21