

Package Deal

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2,3 Registration continues online for VBS & Youth Summer Kick Off.
- B. Slide4 Mur Com Pantry – This Sunday last day.

II. Slide5 Intro: Package Deal

A. *Loving God & Loving Others* is a package deal. You **can't** have one w/o the other.

1. There is a natural, logical kind of loving that loves **lovely things** and **lovely people**. That's logical. But there is another kind of loving that **doesn't** look for value in what it loves, but that **CREATES value in what is loves**. Like a small child's rag doll.

When a **little girl**, has a **little rag doll**, it is often an inseparable companion. She has other toys that are intrinsically far more valuable, but none that she loves like she loves the rag doll. Soon the rag doll becomes more and more rag and less and less doll. It also became more and more dirty. If you tried to clean the rag doll, it became more ragged still. And if you didn't try to clean the rag doll, it became dirtier still.

The sensible thing to do is to trash the rag doll. But that was unthinkable for anyone who loved the little child. *If you loved the little girl, you love the rag doll - it is part of the package.*

B. John raises 2 more issues as he continues his battle with the false teachers, for the minds and hearts of the churches of Asia Minor. *Truth is Victorious over Lies.* and, *Love is Victorious over Fear.*

III. Slide6a TRUTH IS VICTORIOUS OVER LIES (1-6) READ

A. In 3:24. John introduces the role of the HS in our assurance.¹

¹ Chuck Swindoll; 1 Jn.4

1. Just as we can tell the *children of God* from children of the devil by their **deeds** so we can discern *God's Spirit* from *false spirits*, by what they **teach**.
 - a) Whether it's **cult members** at your door or **preachers on YouTube**, if they deny *Jesus Christ came in the flesh*, they are **not** from God.
 - b) They are **counterfeits** & are from *the world* (5). We don't have to fear them, **because** *greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world*.
 2. Almost everything connected with **God & truth** finds its **counterpart** in various forms of error.
 - a) **In contrast to the Trinity**, we have the **trinity of evil** (world, flesh, devil or Devil, Antichrist, False Prophet). **In contrast to wheat**, we have the **counterfeit tares**. **In contrast to angels**, we have **demons**.
 3. **In every age** the false has *counterfeited* the true:
 - a) In Egypt the **magicians** imitated **Moses**.
 - b) In the Apostolic **church** **Simon Magus** imitated **Philip**.
 4. **Slide6b** Griffith Thomas said, *Half a truth is more dangerous than a lie*.
 5. *"Those who **modify truth** have always injured the truth more than those who have **denied it openly**."* (L. Palmer; 1st Epistle of John)
- B. There is a **superhuman spirit** that lies behind the human teacher.
1. Behind every human is a some spirit, **either the HS or an evil spirit**.
 2. **And**, behind every spirit is its source, **God** or the devil.
 - a) Thus, *test the spirit behind the teacher* to see whether they are from God.
 3. **By the way a prophet** (or **false-prophet**) was someone who *spoke a message*, more than someone who *foretold the future*. (think of the content in the prophets, major/minor)
- C. Understand, the church services of the apostolic period were much more **free & spiritual** than is true of many churches today. (Shepherd's Notes; 1,2,3 John; pg.59)

1. The structure was less formal & less rigid. Many different people participated in the service. Anyone was free to address the congregation. In such an atmosphere, false teaching could easily be established.
- D. Slide6c I don't think it's speaking about *merely* mouthing the right words (demons spoke the right words to Jesus).
1. There is a **Scriptural** claim & a **Satanic** claim: **Scriptural** - all messages acknowledging that Jesus **has** come in the flesh are of God. **Satanic** - all messages that **do not**, are not of God.
 2. Slide6d What are the issues of our day? *Exvangelical?* Kevin Max, the Grammy award-winning singer from the band **DC Talk**, has become the latest prominent Christian to announce his departure from evangelicalism; that is, the belief *salvation is received by grace alone, through faith in Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection*. *Exvangelical* is the catchy term that those walking away from the doctrines of Protestant evangelicalism use to describe themselves. [new term in 2016, *there is no theological creed to hold to*] (agreed **fundamentalism**, **legalism** have pervaded the church but ...)
- E. Slide6e Jesus Christ - has come - in the flesh - This simple phrase carries the essential elements of Christian faith. (It involves the acceptance of Jesus as *the preexistent, incarnate Christ*)
- F. Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (*was combating?*) - Here John was dealing with Gnosticism & Docētism.
1. **Gnosticism** – Pagan philosophy in which **matter** was thought to be **evil**.
 - a) Led to 2 extremes: **Asceticism** (flesh-fasting) < - > **Sensuality** (flesh-feeding)
 2. **Docetism** (Gk, *to seem*) – Heresy that regarded *the body of Jesus as an illusion*.
 - a) What would this teaching do to the crucifixion account? *He really didn't suffer then. The presence of the Son of God was just a masquerade.*

3. Today, I think more people have a prob w/Jesus being God rather than Him being human. [back then, 1st attack against Him being human]

IV. Slide7a **LOVE IS VICTORIOUS OVER FEAR (7-21) READ**

- A. Slide7b (7) *Faith is the flower that receives the dew & the sun, while love is that flower reflecting beauty & fragrance.*² [God's true children will reflect His character]
1. **Faith only** - I just **take in** (belief), I don't **give out** (love; beauty/fragrance).
 - a) No love, no fragrance or beauty.
 2. **Love only** - I just **give out** (love), I don't **take in** (faith/belief; reading/study/ the word).
 - a) No faith, no dew or sunshine. Flowers don't grow in caves.
 3. **So, faith & love must go together.**
- B. (7b,8) Many *spiritual leaders* have taught this **ideal**, **but** John goes further & gives us **the moral reason for love...which is rooted in the Person of God!** (read 7b,8 **and...**)
- C. Slide7c (8) **God is love** - One of the most profound statements in the bible. *Perhaps the fullest meaning could never be completely explained.*
- D. But you can't say, *love is God*. **Because love doesn't completely describe God, but God completely defines love.**
1. *He is love. His nature is loving, & love can never be absent from His being or any of His actions.*³
- E. Everything God does, He does in love, because He **is** love. **He is the source & origin of love.** [God can be known only through His *demonstration* of His love]
1. The **climatic demonstration** of His love came when *He sent His own Son to die for us on the cross.*
 - a) Love must have an **object** of its affection. How can one **say** he loves, when there is nothing to love, there must be an **object** of your love ... **You are the**

² Anonymous. From Griffith Thomas; John; pg.307,308

³ Shepherds Notes: 1,2,3 John; pg.65

object of His love!

F. Slide7d (11) The children should be like the Father - *For God so loved.*

G. For God - The initiation in all salvation lies w/**God the Father**.

1. Bad theology says, *the Father is mean, the Son is nice.*
2. Listen to Paul in Eph.1:5,6 *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to **Himself** (Father), according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*
3. It was with *God the Father* that this all started. **Because, God is Love.**
1Jn.4:8

H. **God so loved** - *so* ... ponder its meaning.

1. Slide7e **God's love is:** spontaneous in its **source**; universal in **scope**; long-suffering in **intensity**; self-sacrificing in **character**, aggressive in **action**; & constant in **duration**.⁴

I. Then our obligation because of that, we also *ought to love one another*.

1. **Ought** = *opheilo*. Moral obligation. We're bound to loving them.
2. This should weigh heavily upon us day by day (to love).

J. (12) *Our love for others* makes God's love **real & visible to them**.

1. It displays the *reflection* of our Father.

K. (13) It also makes God **real & personal to us**.

L. (16) Merely *reading* in the bible about about God's love is not enough.

1. Seek to **experience** that love in your heart **by** sharing it with others.

M.(17) Love gives us confidence.

N. (18) Love protects us from fear (fear of? judgment vs.17).

1. Just as **Truth** is victorious over **lies**, **Love** is victorious over **fear**.

⁴ Griffith Thomas: John; pg.304,305

O. (20) Once again, the man who **talks w/o doing**. Mere **words w/o deeds**.

1. **He is a liar** - that's *plain speak*.

P. **Slide8** So the end of this matter is this: *loving God & loving others* is a **package deal**. You **can't** have one w/o the other.

1. **If you loved the little girl you love the rag doll, it is part of the package**.

Q. We're under a new law - the law of LOVE.

R. Keywords: Love, truth, lies, spirit, exvangelical, gnosticism, docetism, fear, faith, god so loved.