

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

▣ **1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

▣ World: *kosmos*: the order of things here on earth

▣ Love: *agape*: to put another's best interest first

CHRISTIANS SHOULD NEVER PUT THE WORLD'S
INTERESTS AHEAD OF GOD AND HIS
INTERESTS

CONCERN ABOUT FELLOWSHIP

- ▣ **1 John 1:1** What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—
- ▣ **John 1:1-5** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- ▣ Comprehend: *katalambano*: to wrap around; to understand; to overcome

REFUTING DOCETISM

- “we touched with our hands” not only saw with their eyes
- The point: Jesus had a flesh and blood body
Jesus was the Word made flesh
- **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Flesh: *sarx*: the body as opposed to the soul and spirit
- **1 John 1:2** ... and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—
- Life: *zoe*: the presence of physical vitality; in this case, a human animal
- Manifested: *phaneroo*: to become visible

IMPORTANCE OF HIS HUMANITY

- Jesus repeatedly called Himself the “son of man”
- **Matthew 16:27** "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.
- A Kinsman Redeemer had to be a blood relative!
- **Hebrews 2:14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...
- **Hebrews 9:22** And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

JOHN'S EXPRESSED DESIRE

- ▣ **1 John 1:2-3** and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
- ▣ Fellowship: *koinonia*: participation; sharing (based around a common goal or belief)
- ▣ John's desire is for this to have its basis in fellowship with God
- ▣ **1 John 1:7** ...but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

ABOUT LIGHT

- ▣ **1 John 1:5-6** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
- ▣ LIGHT: *phos*: physically light; spiritually sinlessness
- ▣ **Genesis 1:3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- ▣ **James 1:17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
- ▣ **GOD DOESN'T CHANGE HIS MORAL VALUES CONCERNING RIGHT AND WRONG**

WATCH THE WALK

- ❑ **1 John 1:6-7** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
- ❑ **2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- ❑ Fellowship is based on participation in shared goals or beliefs
- ❑ Bound together: *heterozugeo*: to be yoked differently; unequally yoked
- ❑ **Isaiah 5:20** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

HERESIES CONFRONTED

- ❑ **1 John 1:7-8** ...but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- ❑ The gnostics claimed to have no sin mostly because they changed the definition of sin; in reality, their entire system of doctrine and thought was sinful
- ❑ Deceiving: *planao*: to be in error;
- ❑ **James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- ❑ Listen to wrong sources; fail to act on what you know to be God's will

SELF-DECEPTION

- ❑ **Jeremiah 2:35** Yet you said, 'I am innocent; surely His anger is turned away from me.' Behold, I will enter into judgment with you because you say, 'I have not sinned.'
- ❑ **1 John 1:9-10** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.
- ❑ Confess: *homologeō*: to say the same thing
- ❑ **Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- ❑ Repent: *metanoēō*: to change one's mind or purpose; think differently

KNOWING GOD

- ▣ **1 John 2:1-2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.
- ▣ Propitiation: *hilasmos*: an expiator; one who makes a covering
- ▣ **Hebrews 9:4-5** ...and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; and above it *were* the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

THE MERCY SEAT

- Mercy seat: *hilasterion*: propitiation; a covering
- In the tabernacle and Solomon's temple, the ark of the covenant was in the Holy of Holies
- The lid of the ark was called the Mercy Seat
- Inside the ark were the tablets of the ten commandments, and at some time Aaron's rod that budded and a golden jar containing manna
- In the Tabernacle model, God showed us that God's mercy in sending Jesus to provide the ultimate covering for the sins revealed by the Law
- Mercy triumphs over judgment
- John's point is that this mercy is available to everyone who chooses to be in fellowship with Christ

KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

- ▣ **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- ▣ **Matthew 7:17-20** "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

OLD AND NEW

- ❑ THE OLD...
- ❑ John was teaching an old command: the value of the Law
- ❑ The Law revealed God's righteous standards
- ❑ Since God doesn't change, His moral values don't change
- ❑ Therefore, even though new covenant believers are not bound to act on various conditions of the Old Testament Law, we should still recognize that they reflect God's moral values
- ❑ Some of these values are reflected in the Ten Commandments
- ❑ Others are reflected in the ways that various legal requirements were to be carried out

OLD AND NEW

- THE NEW...
- **1 John 2:8** On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.
- **John 13:34-35** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- Love: *agapao*: love that acts in another's best interest before its own
- This sort of love is not an emotion; emotions can't be commanded

DISCIPLESHIP

- ❑ Jesus said that discipleship is proven by your state of “agape” love
- ❑ Disciple: a learner; a follower of a teacher
- ❑ **1 John 2:9** The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now.
- ❑ This clearly addresses believers, not the world in general
- ❑ Clearly, Christians sometimes hate/dislike other Christians
- ❑ John’s point is that this condition shows that there is still a lot left to be learned about Jesus and His ways
- ❑ **1 John 2:10** The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

Stumbling: *skandalon*: the trigger that trips a trap

ABIDING

- ▣ **John 15:10-11** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full."
- ▣ Abiding in the vine involves lifting, pruning, and bearing fruit
- ▣ **John 15:8** "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."
- ▣ Fruit is reproductive; people who are in genuine relationship with Jesus are disciples and reproduce disciples

EVIDENCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

- ❑ Love of brothers
- ❑ Bearing fruit
- ❑ **John 8:31-32** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- ❑ There are those who are false disciples
- ❑ There are those who believe they are disciples when they are not
- ❑ **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.