

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BROTHER

I John 3:10-18

Introduction:

- A. How do we know? Not God, but men! vs.10

- B. The problem of man and his fellow man no small problem.
 - 1. Cain asked "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 - 2. The Ten Commandments deal more with man's relationship to man than man's relationship to God. Yet notice man's relationship with God is dealt with first.
 - 3. It is in light of the New Birth that John here deals with the Christian and his brethren.

- C. Christian has two groups of brothers.
 - 1. Brothers in the flesh.
 - 2. Brothers in Christ.

I . THE WORLD HATES THE CHRISTIAN

I John 3:13

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hates you."

- A. Jesus said a Christian would be hated.
 - 1. Matthew 5:11
"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."
 - 2. "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake."
 - 3. John 15:19
"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

- B. With Jesus there was no middle ground.
 Either one loved or he hated.
 - 1. Loved God = Hated God.
 - 2. Served God = Served the Devil.
 - 3. Either a child of God or a child of Devil.
 - 4. Either born again or on the way to Hell.

- C. You may object that you are not hated.
 - 1. Look again at John 15:19
 - 2. I wonder if we Christians don't want to take on a dull gray color. Neither black nor white. We don't want to offend.
 - 3. Take a stand on some moral issue and see what happens. Speak out of liquor, immoral stealing from God, desecration of Lord's day, and thousand other things and see what the world does.
 - 4. Jesus took his stand and they cried, "Crucify Him."
 - 5. Steven took his stand and they "gnashed their teeth."
 - 6. Paul took his stand and they left him for dead on the side of the road.
 - 7. I'm afraid we preachers sometimes are spineless jellyfish.
 - 8. Yes, the world will hate us and respect us at the same time.

II . CHRISTIAN IS TO LOVE .

I John 3:14-15

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren, He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

- A. It is proof that we are a Christian.
 - 1. Our nature has been changed.

B. No place for hate in life of a Christian.

1. Moses said, "Thou shalt not kill."

Jesus said, "That whosoever hateth shall be in danger of the judgment."

2. Matthew 5:43-47 (read)

3. No place for jealousies.

III. CHRISTIAN TO LOVE HIS BROTHER AS CHRIST LOVED.

I John 3:16

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

A. Christ laid down his life because of love.

B. Christian to lay down his life.

1. Lay down a life of commitment.

2. Lay down a life of sacrifice.

3. Lay down a life that is holy and pure.

C. Must we lay down our life for a world that hates us?

1. "But God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

2. "All day long I have stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gain saying people."

3. What if God had given up on you and me?

IV. AN EXAMPLE OF LOVE FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

I John 3:17-18

"But whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

- A. Put your money where your mouth is verse 17.
1. No need to say be warmed and filled.
 2. 2/3 of the world goes hungry.
 3. The world grows more pagan by the day while A.B.A. rob God of over 1/2 of potential tithe.
 4. More money spent by average American on tobacco than foreign missions.
 5. We pray for salvation of a lost world and less and less men according to the population respond to the ministry.
 - a. Maybe we parents ought to be more like Hannah and dedicate our children unto God. Most of us are encouraging them into something else other than the ministry. I realize ultimately the call must come from God, but we can cause them to be sensitive to the call as Eli did Samuel."
- B. Love in deed and in truth.
1. How much do we love our brother?
 - a. When was last time you invited him to church or spoke to him of Christ?
 - b. Paul said the love of Christ constrains us.
(1) II Cor. 5:14-15
"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."
 - c. Our love is so selfish.
- C. Christian has the love of God shed abroad in his heart, but the sinner knows not God for he has not experienced the forgiveness of sin.