

BOOK OF 1 JOHN

Lesson #9 -The Imperative of Love

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:10-15

Introduction:

1. The greatest spiritual gift we have is love -1Co 13:1-ff
2. We must love one another to have life abiding in us.
3. Why is this love so imperative?
4. Without love we are...

I. CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL -vs. 10

- A. WE ARE EITHER CHILDREN OF GOD OR OF THE DEVIL
- B. THE DEEDS OF THE DEVIL -Jn 8:44
 1. He was a murderer from the beginning
 2. He is the father of lies

II. DISOBEDIENT TO JESUS -vs. 11

- A. THE NEW COMMANDMENT -Jn 13:34, 35
 1. Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another
 2. By our love others will know we are His
- B. LOVING JESUS IS MOTIVATION FOR OBEDIENCE -Jn 14:15

III. IMITATING CAIN

- A. CAIN MURDERED HIS BROTHER ABEL -Ge 4:1-15
- B. HIS MOTIVATION
 1. He was jealous of his brother
 2. His deeds were evil, while his brother's were righteous

IV. IMITATING THE WORLD

- A. EVIL MEN NATURALLY HATE THE RIGHTEOUS
- B. WE HAVE RECEIVED WARNING FROM THE WORD
 1. Warning from Jesus -Jn 15:18, 19, 25; 16:1-4; 17:14
 2. Peter's warning -1Pe 4:12-ff
 3. Those in darkness hate the light -Jn 3:19-21

V. FORGETFUL OF PASSING FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

- A. WE HAVE INDEED PASSED
 1. Peter's words -1Pe 2:9, 10
 2. Paul's mission -Ac 26:17, 18
 3. Paul's words -Co 1:13, 14
- B. FAILURE TO LOVE OUR BROTHER IS TO ABIDE IN DEATH

VI. A MURDERER

- A. HATE EQUALS MURDER -Cf. Mt 5:21-23
 1. One does not have to physically kill another to be guilty of murder.
 2. Murder, as Jesus teaches, begins in the heart -Cf. Mt 15:18-20

B. ONE CANNOT FOLLOW GOD WITH HATE IN HIS HEART

1. God is love -1Jn 4:8
2. We cannot claim to love God while hating our brother -1Jn 4:19, 20

VII. WITHOUT ETERNAL LIFE

A. THEY WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD -Ga 5:19-21

B. THEY HAVE THEIR PART IN THE LAKE OF FIRE -Re 21:8

Conclusion:

1. The positive side of having love in our heart for our brethren is that we are displaying the characteristics of God -1Jn 4:8
2. Second, others will truly know that we are His disciples by our love for one another.