



## The Agape

### Class 3 • 1<sup>st</sup> John 2 • Part 2

#### • 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-29

- 15) Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16) For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
- 17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
- 18) Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.
- 19) They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.
- 20) But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.
- 21) I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.
- 22) Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.
- 23) Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (*but*) *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also*.
- 24) Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.
- 25) And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.
- 26) These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.
- 27) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.
- 28) And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
- 29) If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

- Hopefully, by now you are starting to see the allusions in the Letters of John to  
The Agape - The Love Feast - The Memorial Table
- Allusions to the forgiveness of sins, the keeping of the commandment to “Do this in remembrance of me”, and allusions to the love that Christ expressed for his brethren in giving his life
- If you are having a hard time seeing them, I’ve prepared a handout...
- Last week we saw John telling the readers that the purpose of his writing to them is that they would not commit the sin of a return to Judaism
- But, to emphasize the remarkable difference between Christianity and Judaism, between the Law of Christ and the Law of Sin and Death...
- Even if you do sin, you can be forgiven if you repent and come back to Christ
- Christ is our propitiation, our atonement
- We obey him by keeping his commandment - “Do this in remembrance of me”
- John never uses the phrase “In Christ” like Paul does, but look at what he does use:
  - “we are in him” - vs. 5
  - “abideth in him” - vs. 6
  - “walking as he walked” - vs. 6
- John seems to stress this over and over
- We can obviously apply this to the greater overall picture of our life
- Staying in the Truth
- But, again, think in terms of the Memorial Feast
- Regular participation in the Memorial Feast is the most obvious way a believer can show that they are continuing in Christ
- John 6:56
  - 56) He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

- But, what about sincerity?
- Just showing up for Memorial Service doesn't necessarily prove anything
- John continues to imply that you can judge a believer's sincerity by kind of life they live
- *"ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked"*

- At verse 15 John shifts the emphasis to a new word
- You just read it six times, do you remember which one it is? WORLD
- Our reading of "world" would be dramatically different from Jewish believers in the first century
- For us it is anything outside of the Truth'
- But, for a Jew, the "world" was the Jewish world
- John's advice for them is to avoid Jewry and it's dogmatic insistence on Judaism
- The advice for us is quite clear
- This is a famous triad of sins...
- the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
- What allusions can you think of:
  - Eve - Good for food, pleasant to the eyes, desired to make one wise
  - Christ - Stones into bread, See all the nations, Inability to get hurt

- But in verse 17 all these things pass away...
- But, he that doeth the will of God doesn't
- John's tone gets ominous

18) Little children, it is the last time

- The apostles believed that Christ's return would happen in their lifetime
- This is a pressing matter that needs to be addressed right away

19) They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

- The Judaisers have been successful - Many have left
- The best preacher is a convert
- The best Judaisers were those who left the Ecclesia
- But you have the Holy Spirit (unction) so that you know better
- Look at these gifts, and how helpful they would be in a conflict like this...

• 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-10

- 8) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of **wisdom**; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
- 9) To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
- 10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

21) I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

- And that truth is...

• John 20:31

31) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

22) The Anti-Christ denied that Jesus is the Son of God

23) If you do, then you deny God who said, "I will be his Father, and he shall be my son"

24) Hold on!

25) It's worth it!

26) A warning...

27) Trust in the things first taught you, and trust in the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit was invaluable in insulating the believers from the attacks of deceivers
  - What do we have today?
  - The nearest thing would be the safeguard of a wholesome (but nevertheless imperfect) summary of sound principles
  - A Statement of Faith provides a built-in reaction to those who would try to subvert
- 28) And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
- Again with the “little children”
  - “Stick with Christ” - Those who don’t will be ashamed at his return
- 29) If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.
- Judging a tree by it’s fruit
  - If your Brothers and Sisters are righteous, then they are followers of Christ who is righteous
  - If they are acting evilly, then they aren’t...