



The Agape

Class 7 • 1st John 5

• 1st John 5

- 1) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
- 2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
- 3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.
- 4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.
- 5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 6) This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.
- 7) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
- 8) And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.
- 9) If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.
- 10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.
- 11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
- 12) He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.
- 13) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- 14) And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
- 15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- 16) If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.
- 17) All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.
- 18) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.
- 19) *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.
- 20) And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.
- 21) Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

- We started last week with a little diversion from the discussion about the Agape
- He talked about avoiding false teachers who claimed Holy Spirit guidance
- The litmus test for a false teacher was simple: Every one that says that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God, and everyone that doesn't - isn't
- It was helpful for us to realize that this same test that John institutes 2000 years ago, works extremely well for us today
- He said,

9) In **this** was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

- What *"this"*?
- Visualize him standing there next to the Memorial Emblems, pointing down at them and saying that sentence!
- 10)** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

- You aren't doing God a favor by showing up at the Breaking of Bread
- He is doing you one

11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

- The natural thing would be, "if God so loved us, we ought also to love God"
- Instead we are commanded to reflect God's love to us (by sacrificing his Son on our behalf) by loving each other

- We continue this week on the same vein

1) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

- Interpret the bad English in the King James version of the second half of verse 1

“Everyone that loves God also loves Jesus”

- NOW read the first half!

“Everyone that believes in Jesus is born of God”

- The second half is really saying,

“Everyone that loves God, has to love His children - Your Brethren!”

2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

- Again, you would normally think of this sentence as,

“By this we know that we love God, when we keep his commandments”

- But John makes it,

“By this we know that we love our Brethren, by loving God and keeping his commandments”

- Explain how this works?

3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

- Baptism and Breaking of Bread are now heavy, weighty, hard commandments

- They are the OPPOSITE of grievous

- These commandments are designed to take away a heavy load of sin

- Anyone who says, “I can’t go to Memorial Service because I am not worthy” is completely missing the point

- The emblems are not designed for people who are perfect, but for sinners who are sickened by their own sins

- Think of the implication that this verse had in the first century
- Does “burden” make you think of anything?
- The resolution of the Council at Jerusalem:
- Acts 15:28-29
 - 28) For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;
 - 29) That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.
- The Judaisers were trying to get a “grievous burden” placed on the Christians, but that is not what was necessary
- 4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.
- John pits “justification by faith” against the old outlook of the Jewish World
- And assures them that if you are born of God you can overcome that old world by your faith
- Explain how we need faith to overcome “the world” in our lives as well
- 5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 6) This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.
- Water and blood?
- At his crucifixion it reads that “blood and water” flowed
- I think that John is talking about more than just the crucifixion
- I think that the Water refers to his baptism, and the Blood to his death
- The message to us is just as clear...
 - Baptism and Breaking of Bread!

7) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

- It's ironic that this verse was falsely inserted here, where we have seen John clearly fighting against the Trinity
- Some scribe thought that John was getting a little close to the bone, and threw this in
- What does it really prove?
- Can't we say that they are all one in purpose?

8) And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

- This verse is authentic and states that there is more than just the water and blood that bears witness, but the spirit agrees as well

9) If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12) He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

13) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

14) And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- Boldness in our faith in Christ - IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL

16) If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

- The "sin unto death" has to be something that you can "see his brother sin", so it's not just an assessment of someone's motives
- One thing would be apostasy - to see a Brother leave the Ecclesia and return to the Synagogue

- Same for us...

17) All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

18) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

- It's clear when you think about the "sin" being Apostasy

19) *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

20) And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

21) Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.