

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN – CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

July 3, 2011

1. The Incarnation of the Word of life

1John 1:1- 4

- 1 John is often called the apostle of love. His epistles are focus on relationships which are built on agape love. John presents the how to build agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life. The vertical relationship is an essential pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings such that the type of relationship that we develop with others portrays whether we have a personal relationship with God or not.**
- 2 God is Light and hence those who have a personal relationship must walk in light and not darkness to engage in a continuous fellowship with Him. Walking in light involves regular and immediate confession of our sins and allowing the blood of Jesus to continuously cleanse us from all unrighteousness. On the other hand, the hindrance to walking in light are falling in love with the world and falling for the alluring lies of false doctrine that soothe our itchy ears.**
- 3 God is love and those who have a personal vertical relationship with Him through Jesus Christ are His children and they must walk in love. John's preposition is that if anyone does not love, he/she does not know God. Godly love is active, not just in words; giving and not just getting or receiving; and unconditional in nature. All these are fulfilled in Christ. When you fall in love with the Christ of the Church who indwells believers, His brand of love (agape love) characterizes your action freeing you of self-indulgence and self-condemnation thus granting you confidence before God.**
- 4 God is life and those who fellowship with Him possess the His quality of life because of the Christ in them. This quality of life is spiritual and begins with spiritual birth which occurs through faith in the completed work Jesus Christ at Calvary where the burdens of sin were lifted. Faith in Jesus Christ's completed work of salvation then infuses us with God's life which is eternal. But the work began at the incarnation of the word of life. John clarified this when he wrote, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God" (John 3:16-21). John also wrote, "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or**

a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:9-14)

- 5 Because of the incarnation of the Word of life we can have a vertical relationship with God. Thus today's text reads, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete" (1John 1:1-4).
6. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize by making the following statements:
 - The incarnation of the Word of life provided us the opportunity to enjoy the quality of God's life which is spiritual and eternal.
 - Eternal life is through having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ the incarnate Word of life.
 - This personal relationship with Jesus Christ makes it possible for us to fellowship with God the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 - When the fellowship is genuine because of the Christ in us and the resultant agape love, our joy is made complete as we walk in the light and in love in the quality of life that is spiritual and eternal. And let the church say, "Amen!".
7. If you desire to enjoy the fellowship of spiritual and eternal life with God, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?
8. And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. Chris Johns

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN – CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

July 10, 2011

2. Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

1John 1:5- 2:2

1. Finding the stud example
 - A. Wrong support, anchored blindly in the dark

B. Support seem good, job, money, car

1. Subtle darkness cause you to collapse

2. **Vs. 5-7**, there is no darkness in God – Good or Evil

A. We deceive ourselves (we lie) if we walk in darkness

1. You can have fellowship with God & live any way you please

2. God knows my heart, Man going to be a man, everybody got somebody on the side,

3. Gnostic teaching, practicing willful sin

4. The way seem right, Example of socks, hitting foot

B. When we have fellowship with one another

1. We have fellowship with God – Walk in the Light

3. **Vs. 8-10**, correct way to deal with sin (Missing Mark)

A. Correct way is to not deny sin, but acknowledge and confess

1. Allow God to cleanse it – Man won't forgive

2. **Proverbs 28:13**, he that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

3. **Psalm 32:5**, I acknowledged my sin unto thee. And mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin

4. **Psalm 119:133-135**, Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the oppression of man. So will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant. Teach me thy statutes.

B. Confession requires a level of humility

1. Guilt and shame – Christ bore on cross

2. Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness

3. If we say we have not sinned, we lie

1. Job interview example

4. **Vs. 2:1-2**, walking with the advocate

1. Sin not with false doctrine

2. If you sin you are not totally lost

3. You have an advocate in Christ

4. Counselor, Comforter

A. Propitiation – Atoning sacrifice, Price Paid

1. Jesus bore in his body the punishment due us for sin

2. He satisfied Gods demand that sin be punished

3. God want hold our sins against us anymore
- B. I'm so glad that Christ paid the price for our sins.
1. Shame, Guilt, Grief, paid in full on the cross
 2. He was **wounded** for our **transgressions**
 3. He was **bruised** for our **iniquities**
 4. He was taken from **Judgment Hall** to **Judgment Hall** , no wrong
 - 5 He was **crucified** on an old rugged cross.
 - 6 He died for our sins
 - 7 But on that third day – He rose with all power
- And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
 Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

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July 17, 2011

3. Love and Hatred for Fellow Believers?

1John 2:3- 11

1. John, the apostle of love, in his epistles presents the “how to build” agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life. The vertical relationship is essential and pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings such that the relationships that we develop with others portray whether we have any relationship with God or not.
2. Previously in another series we have defined the church as the body of believers in Christ. Believers have a personal relationship with God and a continuous fellowship with Him. If this is correct, is it possible to love and hate fellow believers? Have you ever heard another believer commented that he/she hates another believer? Can you really love and hate your fellow brother and sister in Christ? Impossible! It is just like saying light and darkness can dwell together in the same place at the same time. My preposition is this: If Christ dwells in you and He is light, can darkness be part of you? Never!
3. God is love and God is light; therefore love is light. Whereas hatred is evil and evil is darkness. As such hatred is darkness. Now the church of Christ is the body of believers in Him. If so, why are Church folks sometimes so evil and hateful in their behavior towards other Church folks – who also claim to be fellow believers? There is an element of hypocrisy somewhere if we are to make sense out of such a situation. Perhaps the confusion for the believers lies in the fact that you must love the sinner but hate the sin. Without must clarity in this fundamental doctrine, believers end up hating both the sin and the sinner. Please recall that God hates sin but loves the sinner such that He does not desire that any should perish but all to come to the knowledge of the truth. For God so loved the world ... that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us to pay our ransom. Herein again, there is an element of forgiving the sinner and bearing his burden to redeem him.

- 4. God is light and God is love; and it is by the believers' love one for another as fellow believers that the world will know they are His disciples. His true disciples are those who know Him personally and obey His commands to love each other. Thus today's text reads, "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: 6 Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did. 7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them." (1John 2:3- 11).**
- 5. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize by making the following statements:**
- God is light, love, and life; and you can know those who know Him because they walk in the light.**
 - Those who know God, obey His commands to love each other.**
 - Whoever says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.**
 - This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did (in love, obedience and humility).**
 - Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.**
 - Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.**
 - But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know their destiny because they don't know where they are going as the darkness has blinded them. And let the church say, "Amen!"**
- 6. If you desire to know God and enjoy the fellowship of spiritual and eternal life with Him, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?**

7. And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
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July 24, 2011

4. Reasons for Writing the Epistles

1John 2: 12-17

1. John, the apostle of love, in his epistles presents the “how to build” agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life. The vertical relationship is essential and pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings such that the relationships that we develop with others portray whether we have any relationship with God or not.
2. John now tells us why he was writing his epistles. But first let us clarify the background and setting from which he was writing. His writing reflects his embracing of the Jewish culture at his time where women were considered less significant than the men. As such we see he mentioned children, young men and fathers (older men) without mentioning women. John also reflected good letter writing ability and skills. A good letter will have an introductory part, where the individuals to receive the letter are identified and/or the main purpose of writing the letter is stated briefly. The next portion is the main part of the letter which could be elaborate. Finally, the conclusion which might include regards/greetings and/or instructions to others but may be a brief summary of why the letter is written.
3. So here we see that John identified his audience as children, young men and fathers, and relates each of these groups to the One who is the main focus of his message: God is light, God is love and God is life. It is also clear that John was addressing his epistles to the Church, those who knew God in a personal relationship. These epistles were a reminder of the relationship the church has with God, its fellow members and the world. It is always good to be reminded once in a while of who and whose you are!
4. Repetition is a form of reinforcement of a message. And scientific studies have proven that when you hear anything three or more times you are likely to remember it. In today's text, John uses repetition to reinforce to the believers that they have personal relationships with God which have provided them with victory over the evil or wicked one. In other words, John was reminding the believers that they are now in the light and cannot afford to go back into darkness because there are deadly consequences for doing so.
5. Thus today's text reads, “I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. 14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For

everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” (1John 2:12-17).

6. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize by making the following statements:

- John identified three stages of spiritual growth in the vertical relationship with God.
- Church members are not all at the same stage of growth but it suffice to say that first you have to be born again to establish this vertical relationship as little children(of God) who grow into young people who are strong and over comers, and finally into mature fathers that are experienced, fruitful and productive in His kingdom.
- John wrote so assure the Children that their sins have been forgiven for Christ’s sake and that they now know the father also because of the vertical relationship established as a result. He reminds the young men that because the word of God lives in them, they are strong and have overcome the evil one. He then reminds the fathers that they are now seasoned and know God who is from the beginning.
- Finally, John warned all believers not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. And let the church say, “Amen!”

7. So if you desire to know God and enjoy the fellowship of spiritual and eternal life with Him, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?

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July 31, 2011

5. Warning Against Denying the Son

1John 2: 18-27

1. John, the apostle of love, in his epistles presents the “how to build” agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life. The vertical relationship is

essential and pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings such that the relationships that we develop with others portray whether we have any relationship with God or not.

2. John now in the text of today continues to tell us why he was writing his epistles. Specifically in this section he was warning against those that deny the Son of God and say Jesus is not the Christ. Such persons are antichrists, many of which will arise at the end times to deceive if possible the very elect of God. Some of them actually proclaim themselves as the Christ. Again, John acknowledges that this was a reminder to the Church. John also made it plain that there are some who will “join” the church but are not truly part of the Church. Eventually they would leave the church because in reality they had never been part of it. The question then is how do you really become part of the church? The answer lies with the acceptance of Jesus as the Christ, the only begotten of the Father through who the vertical relationship is established. There is gross danger in denying Jesus as the Christ. The choice you make to love God determines whether you know Him or not. Remember it is impossible to serve two masters: you cannot serve God and mammon. You have to make a choice.
3. Thus today’s text reads, “18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life. 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.” (1John 2:18-27).
4. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize by making the following statements:
 - John identified the antichrists – those who deny that Jesus is the Christ; they are liars, deceivers and deny both the Father and the Son.
 - Church members that forsake and abandon the Church were never part of it to start with.
 - Those that are truly part of the Church have been anointed by the Holy One and know the truth.
 - No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also
 - Those who are the real Church have the promise of eternal life.
 - Beware of deceivers but know that the anointing you received from Him

remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him. And let the church say, “Amen!”

- 5. So if you desire to know God and enjoy spiritual fellowship and eternal life with Him, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?**
- 6. And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?**