

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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***“ SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW ”***

1 JOHN 2 VS 9-11

THE LAST FEW WEEKS AS WE READ I JOHN 2 VS 7-11, WE FOUND OUT THAT THE OLD COMMANDMENT TO ***“ LOVE ONE ANOTHER ”*** IS

I. **NEW IN EMPHASIS** ( VS 7 )

II. **NEW IN EXAMPLE** ( VS 8 )

AS WE LOOK AT VERSES 9-11 WE WILL FIND THAT THE OLD COMMANDMENT TO ***“ LOVE ONE ANOTHER ”*** IS ALSO MADE NEW IN :

III. **NEW IN EXPERIENCE** ( 9-11 ) OUR PASSAGE CONTINUES THE ILLUSTRATION OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS. IF A CHRISTIAN WALKS IN THE LIGHT AND IS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. HE WILL ALSO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS IN GOD'S FAMILY. LOVE AND LIGHT GOES TOGETHER AS MUCH AS HATRED AND DARKNESS GO TOGETHER.

IT IS EASY TO TALK ABOUT CHRISTIAN LOVE, BUT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO PRACTICE IT, FOR ONE THING SUCH LOVE IS MERE TALK ( I JOHN 2 VS 9 ).

FOR A CHRISTIAN TO SAY OR SING , THAT HE LOVES THE BRETHREN WHILE HE ACTUALLY HATES ANOTHER BELIEVER IS FOR HIM TO LIE. IN OTHER WORDS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER AND OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH ANOTHER CHRISTIAN ***“ AT THE SAME TIME . ”***

**WHAT IS ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS WHY GOD ESTABLISHED THE LOCAL CHURCH ?**

1. **FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS** – ***“ YOU CANT BE A CHRISTIAN ALONE ”*** A PERSON CAN NOT LIVE A COMPLETE AND DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN LIFE UNLESS HE IS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE HAS TWO RELATIONSHIPS :

A. **VERTICAL** ( GOD WARD )

B. **HORIZONTAL** ( MAN WARD )

EACH OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS IS TO BE ONE OF ***“ LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER ”***

JESUS DEALS WITH THIS MATTER ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT ( MAT 5 VS 21-26 ) JEWISH TEACHERS TAUGHT THAT NOTHING EXCEPT ACTUAL MURDER WAS FORBIDDEN BY THE 6<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT – IN DOING SO THEY FAILED TO EXPLAIN THE SPIRITUAL MEANING.- ALL RASH ANGER, MALICIOUSNESS, SLANDER ARE POISONS THAT KILLS SECRETLY AND SLOWLY.

**NOTE:** A GIFT WAS VALUELESS AS LONG AS THE WORSHIPPER HAD A DISPUTE WITH HIS BROTHER. NOTICE THAT JESUS DID NOT SAY THAT THE WORSHIPPER HAD SOMETHING AGAINST HIS BROTHER BUT THAT THE BROTHER HAD SOMETHING AGAINST THE WORSHIPPER. EVEN WHEN WE HAVE BEEN OFFENDED WE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR THE OFFENDER TO COME TO US , WE SHOULD GO TO THE OFFENDER AND TRY TO RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES. IF WE DO NOT JESUS WARNS US THAT WE WILL END UP IN A PRISON OF SPIRITUAL JUDGEMENT ( MAT 18 VS 21-35). IN OTHER WORDS WHEN WE HARBOR AN UNFORGIVING, UNLOVING SPIRIT , WE HARM OURSELVES MORE THAN WE HARM OTHERS.

**NOTE :** JOHN SAY'S " CLAIMS TO BE " THIS IS A CONTRAST BETWEEN:

- **SAYING** – IT IS EASY TO PRACTICE A CHRISTIANITY OF " WORDS" – SINGING THE RIGHT SONGS, UCING THE RIGHT WORDS, PRAYING THE RIGHT PRAYERS- AND THROUGH IT ALL , DECEIVING OURSELVES INTO THINKING WE ARE SPIRITUAL ( RICH YOUNG RULER )
- **DOING** – WHAT WE SAY SHOULD BE THE TRUE EXPRESSION OF OUR CHARACTE. WE SHOULD NOT NEED EXTRA WORDS (OATH) TO FORTIFY WHAT WE SAY, OUR YES SHOULD BE YES AND OUR NO SHOULD BE NO.

SO IF WE SAY, WE ARE IN THE LIGHT, WE WILL PROVE IT BY LOVING THE BRETHERN. MANY CHRISTIANS URGENTLY NEED TO BE ACCEPTED , LOVED AND ENCOURAGED.

## **BENEFITS OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

### **1. OUR LIFE GETS BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER**

2. **WE GAIN GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND PERCEPTION OF SPIRITUAL THINGS** – THAT'S WHY PAUL WROTE ( PHIL 1 VS 9-10 ) HE PRAYED BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A CHRISTIAN WHO LOVES HIS BROTHER IS A CHRISTIAN WHO SEE'S MORE CLEARLY ( 1 JOHN 2 VS 9 )

CONSIDER THESE "**ONE ANOTHER**" STATEMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT :

JOHN 13 VS 14 \_\_\_\_\_

ROM 12 VS 10 \_\_\_\_\_

ROM 12 VS 16 \_\_\_\_\_

ROM 14 VS 13 \_\_\_\_\_

ROM 15 VS 7 \_\_\_\_\_

ROM 15 VS 14 \_\_\_\_\_

I THESS 5 VS 11 \_\_\_\_\_

GAL 6 VS2 \_\_\_\_\_

JAMES 5 VS 16 \_\_\_\_\_

I PETER 4 VS 9 \_\_\_\_\_

THIS IS ONLY A FEW! – IN SHORT , TO LOVE OTHER CHRISTIANS IS TO TREAT THEM THE WAY :

- **GOD TREATS THEM**
- **GOD TREATS US**

### **TWO WAYS CHRISTIAN LOVE OUGHT TO SHOW ITSELF**

- **IN ACTION**
- **IN ATTITUDE**

OR IT IS SPURIOUS ( I COR 13 VS 4-7 )

### **WHAT HAPPENS TO A BELIEVER WHO DOES NOT LOVE THE BRETHREN**

1 **HE LIVES IN DARKNESS AND PROBABLY THINKS HE LIVES IN THE LIGHT** ( I JOHN 2 VS 9 ) HE THINKS HE SEES BUT HE IS ACTUALLY BLINDED BY DARKNESS AND HATRED. THIS KIND OF PERSON CAUSES TROUBLE IN CHURCHES AND GROUPS. HE THINKS HE IS A SPIRITUAL GIANT, WITH GREAT UNDERSTANDING, WHEN HE ACTUALLY IS A BABE WITH VERY LITTLE SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION HE MAY:

A. **READ THE BIBLE FAITHFULLY**

B. **PRAY FERVENTLY** - BUT IF HE HAD HATRED IN HIS HEART HE IS A LIVING LIE

2. **HE BECOMES A CAUSE OF STUMBLING** ( I JOHN 2 VS 10 ) IT IS BAD ENOUGH WHEN A BELIEVER HURTS HIMSELF ( I JOHN 2 9 ), BUT WHEN HE STARTS TO HURT OTHERS THE SITUATION IS FAR MORE SERIOUS. IT IS SERIOUS TO WALK IN DARKNESS. IT IS DANGEROUS TO WALK IN DARKNESS WHEN STUMBLING BLOCKS ARE IN OUR WAY.

**NOTE:** IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CHRISTIANS EXERCISE LOVE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH, OR ELSE THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS AND DISUNITY.

" **QUESTIONABLE THINGS** " ( ROM 12- 15 ) SINCE BELIEVERS COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, THEY DO NOT ALWAYS AGREE. IN PAULS DAY THEY HAD DIFFERENCES IN SUCH MANNERS:

1. **DIETS** - UNSPIRITUAL TO EAT MEAT OFFERED TO IDOLS

2. **DAYS** - STRICT OBSERVATION OF THE SABBATH

BUT THE BASIC SOLUTION WAS TO "***LOVE ONE ANOTHER***"

3. **RETARDS A BELIEVERS SPIRITUAL PROGRESS** - ( 1 JOHN 2 VS 11 ) A BLIND MAN - A PERSON IN THE DARKNESS CAN NEVR FIND HIS WAY ! THE ONLY ATMOSPHERE THAT IS CONDUCIVE TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS THE ATMOSPHERE OF SPIRITUAL LIGHT - OF LOVE. JUST AS THE FRUITS AND FLOWERS NEED SUNSHINE , SO GOD'S PEOPLE NEED LOVE IF THEY ARE GOING TO GROW. THE COMMANDMENT TO " LOVE ONE ANOTHER " BECOMES NEW TO US IN OUR OWN DAY TO DAY EXPERIENCE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS NEW IN ***EMPHASIS*** ANS SAY "YES, LOVE IS IMPORTANT. " NOR IS IT ENOUGH FOR US TO SEE GOD'S LOVE ***EXEMPLIFIED*** BY JESUS CHRIST. WE MUST KNOW THIS LOVE IN OUR OWN ***EXPERIENCE***. THE OLD COMMANDMENT "***LOVE ONE ANOTHER***" BECOMES A NEW COMMANDMENT AS WE PRACTICE GOD'S LOVE IN DAILY LIFE.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BELIEVER DOES LOVE THE BRETHREN**

1. **HE WILL BE A LIVING LIGHT** - LIVING IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

2. **HE WILL NOT STUMBLE OR BECOME A STUMBLING BLOCK**

3. **HE WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY AND PROGRESS TOWARDS CHRIST LIKENESS**