

## **Bible Study Series: 1 John – Living As His Light (lesson 10)**

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**Studying 1 John and also digging into the situations of life when it was written is very revealing:**

- These 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> generation Christ-Followers were facing extreme pressures
- They were hated by Jews & were systematically losing the privilege of Synagogue life.
- They were hated by Rome because they were seen as weird and prude
- Additionally, the eye-witnesses of Jesus were dying off & they were having to sort out life anew.

We can understand why John repeatedly, here & in his Gospel, impress the idea of fellowship and love. “Living as Light” in the midst of Darkness is difficult and often demoralizing.

**In addition to the practical benefits of clinging to one another, John reveals 3 Spiritual Benefits which come by loving one another.**

### **1. Loving One Another \_\_\_\_\_ my connection to the Father.**

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

**Consider.... Matthew 7:21-23:** “I never KNEW you”

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

**or Matthew 25:40,45:**

- “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Vs. 40
- “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’” Vs. 45

### **2. Loving One Another is my opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Actions.**

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:9-12

### **3. Loving One Another allows us to be \_\_\_\_\_ about the Future Judgement.**

“This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup>And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup>This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:13-18

**Remember 1 John 3:21:** “Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have **confidence before God.**”

**Conclusion:** As we learned last week, the American Church is a mess! It is long on many things: Knowledge, Division, Pride, Personality and Performance but lacking in Love for one another!

“We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>**And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**” 1 John 4:19-21

**These statements are the bottom line that need to get our attention, our repentance and renewed purpose as Kingdom Citizens**

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask questions about this message by emailing Bro. Tony: brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org