

Part 7 – 1 John 3:9-21

II. Understanding True Salvation (continued from previous notes) – 1 John 3:4-15

Please note: These notes continue the previous study that covered 1 John 2:28-3:8. That is why we are starting with the letter “F” here in the outline.

F. Vs. 9 – Again, a reminder of the life of the child of God.

1. Those who are “born of God” do not “practice sin.” They do not continue to live a life of sin. They are changed by Christ and that is seen in the fact that they cannot continue to live in sin and not be convicted about it, or progressively leave it behind. A true child of God desires to walk with the Lord.

2. In this verse the word “cannot” means “absolutely” or “no”, indicating a change of habit and life.

3. And why can they not continue in sin? Because God’s “seed” or “life” is in them. The “seed” probably indicates the life-giving power we have from God to live a life pleasing to Him – see John 14:20. The Lord indwells us, His Word is in us, the Spirit is in us.

4. The person born of God cannot continue in sin. Their life is changed – Mt. 7:13-23; Eph. 2:1-10.

G. Vs. 10 – Here John lays out some criteria for separating the true from false confession.

1. The word “evident” means “to make visible” or “make known.”

2. Whoever does not “practice” (present participle meaning presently now, living this way) God’s commands, or right living (practical righteousness), is not a child of God. It is a reference to lifestyle and habits, including attitudes.

3. Another criteria is love for others. To not put others first, but to be self-centered, is an indication that you are not saved. This love has a concern for others without expecting anything in return.

H. Vs. 11 – A reminder of what we have been taught.

1. The reminder is that we should love one another. That is the badge of discipleship – John 13:34-35.

I. Vs. 12 – Here we see Cain as an illustration in direct contrast to vs. 11.

1. Why did Cain take Abel’s life? – jealousy. See Genesis 4:1-8. See Hebrews 11:4 and Jude 11.

2. Cain’s attitude was wrong and was not honoring to God.

J. Vs. 13 – Here we see that the world hates us.

1. John tells us not to be amazed if the world hates us. We will be persecuted – 2 Tim. 3:10-12; John 15:20.

K. Vs. 14 – Here we see another test of salvation.

1. We know that we have moved from death to life, because we love other Christians and of course, we are desiring to live out Mt. 22:34-40, the command to love God and others. John 5:24 states that “passing from death to life” is gaining eternal life. See also Col. 1:13-14.

2. The person who does not love their brother “is still dead” (present tense) or “abides”, “remains” in death.

L. Vs. 15 – This verse also refers to an attitude as well as an action.

1. The attitude is very important to consider – Mt. 5:21-26; Mark 7:14-23; Gal. 5:19-21.

2. We read here that the person with this type of attitude does not have eternal life in them. See John 8:40-47.

III. The Outworking Of Our Faith – 1 John 3:16-23

A. Vs. 16 – Here we see the ultimate act of love.

1. Christ laying down His life for us is the ultimate act of love – John 1:29; John 12:23-26; John 5:24.

2. We too, sacrificially must put others above ourselves – John 13:1-7; John 13:34-35; Phil. 2:1-11.

** Think of how we can show self-sacrifice:

- Our money to see God’s work carried on.
- In husband and wife relationships.
- In friendships.
- Not being jealous or envious over other’s good fortunes.
- Looking for opportunities to serve others.

B. Vs. 17 – Here is the practical point to support vs. 16.

1. The word “need” deals with things that are necessary for life and sustenance – Acts 28:10.

2. “Need” is not “want.” It is not our responsibility to provide the “wants” of everyone.

3. Christ has promised to meet our needs, and He often uses people to do so – Mt. 6:25-34.

4. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us about sacrifice – Lk. 10:25-37.

5. The early church met needs of those within it – Rom. 15:26-27; Gal. 6:10.

6. When we can meet needs and choose not to, do we really have God’s love abiding in us.

C. Vs. 18 – Here we see what genuine Biblical love is all about.

1. Love is shown in action – Jam. 1:22; Jam. 2:14-26.

D. Vs. 19 – Using the issue of love, John discusses the reassurance we can have about our relationship with God.

1. Based on what John has just stated, that the Christian life is seen in love and service, we can “reassure” or be “confident” of our relationship with God.

2. The idea of “reassuring” our heart or being “confident” before the Lord deals with the return of the Lord, and probably also the Bema (Judgment Seat) as found in 1 Cor. 3. By the changed life we have from Him, our actions change and we can stand before Him knowing of our relationship with Him.

3. We cannot truly be sacrificial in our loving outside of Christ living in us.

E. Vs. 20 – This verse deals with self-condemnation, and how to deal with it.

1. The word “condemns” means “to accuse”, “fault or blame.” See Gal. 2:11.

2. Because God is “greater than our heart”, meaning He is higher than us based on His virtue, power, and authority, He knows the real issues of our heart.

3. We do sometimes miss opportunities to minister, and we condemn ourselves for that. But God, looking at our hearts, does not condemn us, so why do we condemn ourselves.

F. Vs. 21 – Here we see how to have confidence before God.

1. If our heart does not condemn us, we can have “confidence” or “assurance” before God. As God’s child, we can have boldness in our witness, in our communication with God, and in our service.

Questions To Think On:

1. How can anger turn to hatred in our hearts? (**1 John 3:11-15**). The reason Cain was so angry with Abel – jealousy was a reason (**Gen.4:1-8; Jude 11; Heb. 11:4**). How do we deal with “pent-up” anger in our hearts? (**Eph. 4:32**). Can a Christian be consumed with anger to the point that they are hateful and unrepentant?
2. What are some ways that we show “love in action” in the Christian community and to the world around us? (**1 John 3:16-18**).