

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- *Lo, He comes with clouds, descending*
- *Day of Judgment, Day of Wonders*
- *22, A Mighty Fortress is our God*
- *Only a Holy God*

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #11

Who's who? What's your source? Abiding in Love

1 John 3:7-22

Sending prayer

Calendar:

October 30, Church service and day at Hartstone

9am-after dinner, 3 meals incl.. Breakfast at 9am.

\$49/adult, \$39, 5 and under free. Make checks to

GBF with notation: "Hartstone." See Eric for details

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

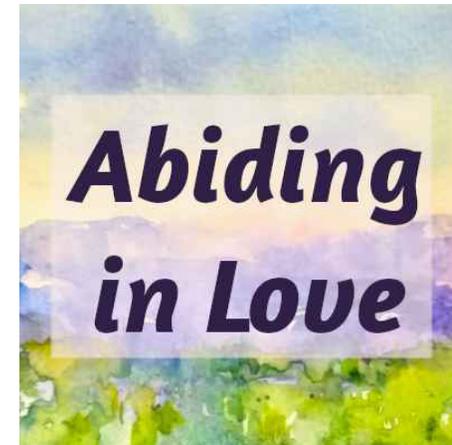
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"We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating"



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #11

Who's who? What's your source? Abiding in Love

1 John 3:7-22

- October 16th, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #11
Who's who? What's your source? Abiding in Love

1 John 3:7-22

The unbeliever, the one who is not regenerate, who is not in Christ through faith in Him, abides in an unbroken slavery to their sin nature. He/she lives in spiritual death, and naturally does the things and has the attitudes of that nature. This even includes hatred. Jesus the Son came in the flesh to destroy sin's mastery and to make the way for regeneration, for the new-born seed of God's Spirit to sprout in the life of the believer. This new seed, this new divine nature has an orientation, like a compass needle pointing North to God and righteousness. The compass needle is easily flicked aside by sin, by hatreds even, but this is momentary and eventually, if the compass is held steady, if the gaze is placed on Christ, it is drawn to point North again, according to its nature. Believers can and should abide in love and righteousness, resting in Christ and enjoying the rich and peaceful life in the Spirit.

V7-9, The Devil is the first, greatest and arch-sinner. It's what he is and does and he inspires it in others. In v7-8 we see two spheres: In the first is the righteousness/uprightness of Jesus. And in the second is sin and it's practices and being under the influence of the Devil himself.

V9 tells us about the *new divine nature* of the one who is born of God. The believer now has the powerful abiding seed of God, the seed of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. This seed loves truly and truly loves and is righteous. But remember, we do still have the un-redeemed flesh and the sin nature that drives it. Sin as our former master, is unseated, it no longer has legal power. But though weakened and bereft of authority, it still sweetly and deceptively beckons us, through the flesh, to heed it and to feed its destructive appetites.



V8, By contrast and by nature, the unbeliever dwells and experiences only the sphere of the domination of Sin as master and the urgings of flesh, the Devil's sphere. His/her practice of sin is consistent and unremitting. That's where he/she lives as a "child of the Devil". It is not by the Devil begetting (he begets no-one), but by the persistence of the deception in which he/she participates.

Here's the thing John warns of: *We who are born again, acting against our true nature, and against goodness and good sense, can temporarily and even for a season, step with our flesh into the Devil's sphere. In this sense we can temporarily act as "children of the Devil."* (Matt 16:23)

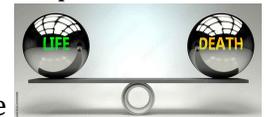
V10, The *natural* children of the Devil are obvious! They do what they do *by nature*. The Christian is to be cautioned strongly not to fall into the trap of behaving like them *against our true nature, the indwelling divine nature of God*. It is ugly and stinky! **But here at the end of v10 is also a seed of encouragement!** If we find we sometimes do practice righteousness and sometimes do love our brothers in Christ, we are reassured of our position in Christ, that our needles though wobbly, do eventually point north. And then we can rest, come to our senses in the Spirit, repent and be cleansed, and walk on in the Light and in love.

V11-12, (See John 15:12, 17, Romans 13:8) Love for one's spiritual brother and sister is of the essence of the Christian's walk in the Spirit. She *should* love, *because* we have been loved so very much! (1 John 4:10) Cain showed hatred toward his *natural-born brother*. How much the opposite should the *supernaturally-born* love his/her supernaturally born brother and sister!

V13, See 1 Peter 4:1. Righteous and pure love can alienate and enrage the unrighteous in their darkened loves.

V14, The two spheres: The sphere of Life and the sphere of Death.

The unbeliever abides permanently, by nature in Death. The believer's natural sphere is Life and love, but can slip into the sphere of Death, where hatreds reign. "abides in death."



v15, See Matthew 5:21-22.

v16, the *challenge* of love

v17. The *test* of love.

V18-22, Assurance and access to the throne of grace.