

**DISTINGUISHING the
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TRUE CHRISTIANS
and
PROFESSING CHRISTIANS
(continued)**

◆ *Scripture Reading:*

◆ **Matthew 7:13-23**



INTRODUCTION and REVIEW

- ◇ Knowing the difference between true believers and those who only profess to believe is:
 - ◇ Known to God alone, who knows the heart of every person - cf Acts 1:24, 15:8
 - ◇ Known to true believers by their works (fruit) - Matt 7:20
- ◇ John spells out these distinguishing works in his first letter to the churches

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
(HABITUALLY) PRACTICING SIN
AND
NOT (HABITUALLY) PRACTICING SIN
(I Jn 3:6-9)

- ◆ The believer feeling at ease (abiding) in Christ does not practice sin, i.e., “keep on sinning”
 - ◆ acting as if God has no requirements
- ◆ The believer being born of God does not keep on (habitually) sin because...

◇ **1. God's seed (life and nature) feels at ease in the believer**

◇ The believer is God's possession, who will be glorified according to God's plan

◇ **2. God is energizing the believer both to desire and to do of His good pleasure (Phil 2:12-13)**

- ◇3. Therefore, the believer is enabled to purify himself (I Jn 3:3)
- ◇4. The Holy Spirit will produce grief in our heart whenever we sin (Eph 4:30, II Cor 7:10-11, 7:1)
- ◇5. If we don't respond to the Holy Spirit's grief, then we are judged by the Lord in order to be "child-trained" (Heb 12:6-8)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
LOVING A BROTHER
AND **HATING A BROTHER**

I Jn 3:11-15

- ◆ The standard action / work of a true believer demonstrating this love according to God's standard: vs 11
- ◆ “for this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another”

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVING A BROTHER AND HATING A BROTHER I Jn 3:11-15

- ◆ An anti-thetical illustration of loving the brethren (vs12)
 - ◆ Abel offered a memorial sacrifice according to God's desired way – with blood
 - ◆ Cain's memorial sacrifice was according to his own desired way – bloodless (Gen 4:3-5)
 - ◆ Then Cain made a blood offering of his own desired way – the blood offering of his brother, Abel

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
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◆ The believer and his lifestyle are hated
(despised, intensely disregarded) by the world
of unbelievers (vs 13)

◆ cf Jn 15:18-20, I Pet 4:3-4

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVING A BROTHER AND HATING A BROTHER

I Jn 3:11-15

- ◆ The proof of having passed out of (spiritual) death into spiritual life: by loving the brethren the way God loves us (vs 14, cf Gal 6:1-2)
- ◆ The believer not loving his brother (at that moment) is feeling at ease in his old, pre-salvation state of spiritual death (Rom 6:20-21)
- ◆ He has the potential to commit murder (cf I Pet 4:15)
- ◆ His indwelling Eternal Life (=Christ indwelling him since the initial point of his salvation) DOES NOT feel at ease in him! (vs 15)

CONCLUSION

- ◇ God knows the heart of every believer and knows who belongs to Him
 - ◇ 1. Believers can only look at outward works to identify the one who is a true believer from one who merely professes a relationship with God
 - ◇ 2. But even true believers can still act as they did before they were believers

CONCLUSION


- ◆ God knows the heart of every believer and knows who belongs to Him
- ◆ 3. God disciplines those who attempt to continue to practice sin. It is in this way that the Lord shows His love to His erring children
- ◆ 4. We have the CHOICE to not only use our salvation, but also to growingly feel at ease in Christ and in our so great salvation

CONCLUSION

Choose to USE your salvation



Choose to use it MORE and MORE consistently



“Feel at ease in Him and He will feel at ease in you” - Jn 15:4