

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

◆ *Scripture Reading:*

◆ I John 3:1-15



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 I Sam 16:7, 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 – cf 3:4
- ◆ The believer being born of God does not keep on (habitually) sin because...

◇ I Jn 3:9

◇ 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

(continued)

- ◇ 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 reason to the Holy Spirit's grief, then we are judged by the Lord to be "child-trained" (I Cor 11:31-32, 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 antithetical 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
LOVING A BROTHER
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I Jn 3:11-15

- ◆ 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 3:11-18

- ◇ The proof of having passed out from (spiritual) death into spiritual life: by loving the brethren the way God loves us (vs 14, cf Gal 6:1-2, I Jn 3:16-18)
- ◇ The believer not loving his brother (at that moment) is feeling at ease in his old, pre-salvation state of spiritual death (vs 14b, cf Rom 6:20-21)
- ◇ He has the potential to commit murder (vs 15, 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 those 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

◇(continued)

- ◇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