

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on May 26, 2019:**

**"Transformed by Love Series (Letters of John):  
Evidence of Love (1 John 2:1-11)  
(Part 3)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows us that anyone who has a close, intimate relationship with God will be transformed to live the same kind of life Jesus lived.]**

**Notes**

Introduction:

- We are continuing with our series of John's letters – transformed by love.
- But first let's look at the primary points that we looked at when we went through 1 John chapter 1.

Recap of 1 John 1:

1. A believer's fellowship is in the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit – this leads to complete joy.
  - As Redida, said earlier today during our worship time, "We don't worship a distant God, we worship a relational God."
  - And when we truly realize that, it "leads to complete joy."
2. Believers acknowledge that God is Light and we have fellowship with Him when we walk in Light.
3. When we walk in Light we have fellowship with one another and experience our soul as cleansed of all sin by Jesus.
  - Once again we don't walk in Light to gain something, but rather, as we walk in the Light, obedience to God just flows out of us.
4. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and truth is not in us.
5. When we confess our sin we experience the righteousness God has given us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
  - Once again, it's nothing that we have done but rather righteousness has been granted to us because of what the Incarnate Jesus did on the cross for us.
  - But we don't always experience God's righteousness in our lives.
6. Being righteous (cleansed of all sin) and yet experiencing sin can be understood from the universal objective reality lived by God, and the personal subjective reality lived by us in this time between the times.

- At the end of the day, we need to realize that God sees us differently than how we might feel, how we might act, or how we might live.

The summary of the first 11 verses of 1 John 2:

*Evidence of love is not just absence of sin,  
For we have a redeemer whose life we are in,  
Evidence of love by living his word,  
A life of hating our brother will never be heard.*

Conquering or dealing with our Sins (Verses 1-6):

**1 John 2:1 (NASB), My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;**

- This phrase “my little children” in the Greek implies “my darling little children.”
- This is an absolute reflection of John’s love toward the believers that he’s writing to.
- John is writing this letter out of love not anger.
- But it’s also a reflection of God’s heart, as well, for He sees all humanity as His darling little children.
- Not only does God love us, He is particularly fond of each one of us.
- The Greek word translated “righteous” also means holy, blameless, and without sin.
- As we see, John recognizes that we do sin from time to time in our lives, that we will fall short, and that we mess up.
- But when we do, we need to acknowledge the wrong we’ve done and say, “Father, I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to do that.”
- By doing this benefits us, because we’re the ones who have moved away from God.
- So, the discipline of confession and repentance and getting back to God is for our benefit.

**2) and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.**

- Now we don’t use the word “propitiation” in our everyday language.
- The Greek word for “propitiation” here in this verse not only implies the benefit to the sinner by being forgiven, but it also implies the action and the means by which this forgiveness came about.
- So this tells us that Jesus is not only the forgiver of sins through His sacrifice, but He is also the High Priest that is performing the sacrifice.
- This means to us is that we have nothing to do with this righteousness – forgiveness was accomplished by Jesus in conjunction with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Now notice, this verse doesn’t say it was just “for believers only,”
- It says, “but also for those of the whole world.”
- Jesus is that propitiation not just for believers but for not-yet-believers as well.

- Yes, Jesus died for the entire world and has included everyone who may not have a clue that they are included.
- And, we're also going to see is that a member who hates his brother is not living how God wants him to live – as John calls it, that person is walking in darkness.
- All the things we see on the news or read about on the blogs about hate crimes is not what God has in mind for us.

### **3) By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

- So, this ties into a loving God. So how do we love God – we live out what He says.
- When we draw close to God through prayer, Bible study and meditation, that love of God flows out of us.
- And, it's through that love of God that we can now love our brothers and sisters.
- Loving others is not something we do on our own, but rather it's a by-product or outcome or result of our intimate relationship with God.

### **4)The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:**

- What John is telling us is that if we are in this love relationship with God, then we are naturally going to live out those things that He says are good for us.
- God's commandments are really God's precepts or His directives to guide us because He knows what's best for us.
- We need to remember that God is good all the time and what He wants to share with us and tells us what to do is a positive thing for us, because it benefits us.

### **6) the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

- We should model our lives after the life of Jesus, who relied His life totally and completely through the illumination of the Spirit.

### **1 John 2:1 (Mirror), My darling little children, the reason I write these things to you is so that you will not believe a lie about yourselves! If anyone does believe a distorted image to be their reality, we have Jesus Christ who defines our likeness face to face with the Father! He is our parakletos, the one who endorses our true identity, being both the source and the reflection of the Father's image in us!**

- That's why belief is so important – understanding who we are and understanding whose we are – that we are in the image of the Father, Son and Spirit.
- And not knowing this leads to a distorted reality which leads to living out a life apart from God.

### **2) Jesus is our at-one-ment, he has conciliated us to himself and has taken our sins and distortions out of the equation.**

- We need to remember that the objective reality of God is that He is looking at us through the eyes of His Son Jesus and that we are forgiven and in a state of righteousness.

- However, sin is still a part of our lives and that's the subjective personal reality that we live in.

**2b) What he has accomplished is not to be seen as something that belongs to us exclusively; the same at-one-ment includes the entire kosmos!**

- Jesus didn't come to save only those who might believe in Him.
- Salvation was accomplished for all humanity and even for the entire cosmos.
- Now, unfortunately, many people place too much stock in what Adam did in the original fall than what Jesus, the Son of God, did to undo what Adam did.
- Jesus, the Son of God, doesn't play second fiddle to Adam, a mere human.

**3) In this we know that we know him; by treasuring the conclusion of his prophetic purpose. 4) To merely claim that you know him, based on your own academic or even sentimental interpretation of him, and not upon the conclusion of his prophetic purpose unveiled in a heart that treasures his truth, is to continue to live a life of pretense!**

- When we truly believe in God and understand what He has accomplished for us then it changes us.
- We can summarize the Bible in two words – belief and response.
- And that response comes out of that belief and that's what changes our lives.

**5) Whoever treasures the logic of God's authentic thought, has his agape-love fully realized in its most complete context. This is what our association and this union in Christ is all about!**

**6) It is in this place of consciously abiding in the awareness of your oneness that your conversation unveils the same fellowship with the Father that Jesus enjoys, and results in a daily walk that mirrors his; one of living your life in the full benefit of it!**

- This says here that the same relationship that the Son of God has with the Father is available to and made present with each one of us.
- We have that same relationship – there's no distance – there's no barrier between us and God.
- But the tough part is that we have to let that truly sink in and accept it and believe it.
- When we understand this, it's really a game changer for our lives.
- We need to view God as relational to each one of us and not distant from us.
- Now, Scripture tells us that "God is love", but He, by definition, could not love if He were by Himself.
- So, the Father, Son and Spirit, as three persons of the Godhead, yet one God because they are so inter-mutually dependent on each other that they are considered one.
- And this is the relationship that God wanted to bring to all of humanity.
- In spite of what Adam did, the Incarnate Jesus came and set things back on track.
- All of humanity and the entire cosmos were brought back into relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- All of this has implications in our daily lives.

A command new in emphasis – first in priority and order (Verse 7):

**1 John 2:7 (NASB), Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.**

**1 John 2:7 (Mirror), My beloved family, I know that the words I write to you here may not immediately remind you of the precepts of Moses; this does not mean that it is a new doctrine, it is the ancient conversation that echoes God’s voice prophetically! It is indeed the very conclusion of the word, which you have heard from the beginning!**

- John is placing a new emphasis on the old command to love God and to love our neighbor.

A command new in source (Verse 8):

**1 John 2:8 (NASB), On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.**

**1 John 2:8 (Mirror), And yet it is a glorious new message that I am writing to you! You may ask, “How can that which is old, also be new?” Herein is the secret of its newness: whatever is true of Jesus is equally true of you! The days of the dominance of darkness as a reference to human life, are over! The true light surely shines with bold certainty and illuminates your life, as it is unveiled in Christ.**

A command new in experience ( Verses 9-11):

**1 John 2:9 (NASB), The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10) The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.**

- Now, there’s a lot in that verse.
- First of all, most of us don’t start off choosing to hate someone, but it’s easy to do.
- The emphasis here is on the one who is offending, not the offender.
- Now, this is not an issue here in our congregation, but it was an issue in John’s time and it can be an issue in some areas today.
- The Greek verb for “hate” here is in the present participle, meaning it’s an on-going continuous action.
- So, John is writing about a deep-seated, on-going festering issue.
- And when one is caught up in this, John says that they are “in darkness.”
- Yet, John wrote earlier that “In the Father there is no darkness.” (1 John 1:5)
- And so, in our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, there can’t be darkness.
- Now, in this day and age, it’s easy to get sideways with someone.
- And when it does, we must fight that it doesn’t stay and linger on.
- This situation is there in the marriage, in the work place, and in the schools.
- So, the message John is giving us is that it’s easy to think that we are justified when we have an attitude against someone.

- John wants the person who feels offended to face up to how he/she is feeling.

**11) But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.**

- Now, when we are in that state of mind, we don't even realize it. We feel justified; we feel that it's all the other person's fault.
- Humanly speaking, this makes sense, but it's so wrong.

**1 John 2:9 (Mirror), To feel justified in your judgment to dislike a fellow human, is to continue in darkness, even if you might claim to be in the light!**

- When we are in this frame of mind, we feel justified.
- This is the paradox of the situation because we're thinking they are wrong, they did this or they said that.
- But, in many cases, the whole situation is a misunderstanding.
- We think that they are the ones who need to change.
- Even though we think we are in the light, we are wrong.
- We need to turn that mirror around and look at ourselves.
- John is telling us that this attitude is destroying us.

**9b) This place of illumination is not cheap talk! It immediately translates into seeing your brother differently!**

- So, when we turn that mirror around, we see our responsibility and our role, which is a game changer.

**10) From this conscious union with that which the light reveals, there follows a deep love for the very brother who might previously have irritated you!**

- We are all wired in our humanity to get irritated.
- We need to remember that communication is a two way process – it's not only the message being sent but it's also the message being received.
- And if we receive a message in a negative way when the sender didn't intend to send it in a negative way, it's easy to get irritated.
- John is telling us not to let that continually go on – but correct that.
- One should tell the person that offended you that you have been offended by their actions or what they said.
- And 9 times out of 10, the response you will get back is that "I didn't intend to offend you and I had no idea that it did."

**11) If anyone thinks less of his brother than what love reveals, it is proof of a blindfold mode, where reference is blurred by a mind trapped in a maze of dark thoughts, which leads nowhere.**

- We need to acknowledge it, change our thinking and learn to live in humility.

In Summary (Let's say this together):

*Evidence of love is not just absence of sin,  
For we have a redeemer whose life we are in,  
Evidence of love by living his Word,  
A life of hating our brother will never be heard.*

*Amen.*

Closing prayer