



Eternal Life

A Study of I John

1 John 4:17-18 Addendum

- *Judged for Loving???*

1. What God Has Done
2. What We Are to Do
3. What God Will Do
4. What Some People Do
5. What We Should Do

1. What God Has Done

- God has called us to be His children
- God does not want us to simply *act differently*, He wants us to *be different* – i.e. - like His Son
 - When God's Son appears, we will *be* like Him
 - “everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”
- How? On-the-job training - Follow His example



1. What God Has Done

- God has given us new life in Christ and calls us to be slaves of righteousness (Romans 6)
- God has given us His Spirit and calls us to follow Him and not the flesh (1 John 2:24; Gal. 5:16)
- God has given us His love and calls us to love Him and others in response (1 John 4:10-11)

1. What God Has Done

- God has given us freedom but calls us to serve one another in love (Gal. 5:13-14)
- God has prepared good works for us and calls us to walk in them (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:1-8)
- God has given us everything we need for life and godliness, and calls us to diligently use it all (2 Pet. 1:3-11)

2. What We Are to Do

- Using the resources He has given us, in faith we are to pursue Christ-likeness (Eph. 4:17-24)
 - “pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another” (Rom. 14:19)
 - “Pursue love” (1 Cor. 14:1)
 - “[pursuing] hospitality” (Rom. 12:13)
 - Pursue peace and sanctification (Heb. 12:14)

2. What We Are to Do

- Using the resources He has given us, in faith we are to pursue Christ-likeness (Eph. 4:17-24)
 - “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness” (1 Tim. 6:1)
 - “He loves one who pursues righteousness” (Prov. 15:9; cf. 21:21)

3. What God Will Do

- God is going to call us to account (Rom. 14:12)
 - This is NOT earning salvation (Titus 3:4-7)
 - It is an assessment of our knowledge, faith, and motives, revealed in our works / deeds (cf. Rom. 2:5-11)
 - “What did you do with all that I entrusted to you?” (cf. Matt. 25:19)

3. What God Will Do

- *The Parable of the Talents* (Matt. 25:14-30)
 - Different amounts given, according to ability
 - “Immediately” two slaves went to work
 - “Master, you **entrusted** x talents to me.”
 - Same results (doubling) -> same reward
- The 3rd is a “wicked, lazy slave”
- Point: **be faithful with what you’ve been given**

3. What God Will Do

- *The Parable of the Minas* (Luke 19:11-27)
 - Same amount given (approx. \$15-20)
 - “Master, **your** mina...”
 - Different results -> different rewards
 - The 3rd is a “worthless slave”
 - Point: **be diligent with what you’ve been given**

3. What God Will Do

- The point of this accounting is to encourage faithfulness and diligence here and now
 - Not to make us feel bad about ourselves
 - Not (necessarily) about our eternal destiny (cf. Matt. 7:21-23)
- It will reveal who we really are and what we really love (John 3:19-21)

4. What Some People Do

- The *natural* heart rejects accountability
 - “sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4; cf. Rom. 1:32)
- According to the world system, all blame, guilt, and shame are bad and detrimental
 - Any talk of *expectations* or *responsibility* is bad for self-esteem
 - Why? because lawlessness is all about *us*

5. What We Should Do

- God's children are to reject the world system and do the will of the Father (2:15-17)
- Not *performance*, but *becoming* (*purifying*)
 - Living in a new system (*the Light*)
 - Having a new purpose (to please God – 3:22)
 - Having a new goal (holiness/*righteousness*)
 - Following a new set of rules (*Love brethren*)

5. What We Should Do

- “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:11)
- “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.” (3:14)
- “if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us” (4:12b)

5. What We Should Do

- How do we know if we really love?
 - If it is for another's good (Rom. 14:1-15:7)
 - If it is sacrificial (1 John 3:16)
 - If we expect nothing in return (Luke 14:12-14)
 - Stuff, recognition, esteem
 - If it is not *burdensome* or *inconvenient* (1 John 5:3)

5. What We Should Do

- How do we know if we really love?
 - If it is in line with *the truth* (cf. Eph. 4:15, 24)
 - If it is without hypocrisy (Rom. 12:9)
 - If it involves devotion & honor (Rom. 12:10)
 - If it is in line with God's commands (1 Jn 5:2)



So What?

- Are you living in light of the Master's return?
 - Your response reveals how you see God
 - Immediate action? (Matt. 25:16), or...
 - Inaction out of indifference or fear? (Matt. 25:24-26; Luke 19:20-22)



So What?

- Learn from the past – don't wallow in it
 - Trust in God's grace and move forward (cf. Titus 2:11-14)
- Do something now
- "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren." (3:14)



So What?

- When we stand before the Holy God, we will realize our unholiness, selfishness, pride, etc.
- In that moment we will understand God's love, grace, patience, mercy, goodness, etc., like never before
- We will then be ready to praise and worship Him for all eternity