

# SOUL FOOD

DECEMBER 4, 2016

## I JOHN 3:1-18      LOVE IN DEED AND IN TRUTH

The essence of being a follower of Christ is laying down our lives. This is how we know what love is. Jesus laid down His life for us. One of the clearest evidences that one is a true Christian is love for one's neighbors, especially those in the household of faith. To hate one's brother is to be a murderer. A murderer does not abide in love, but he/she abides in death. But in Christ, His love has been shed abroad in our hearts and He enables us to pursue walking in the Law of God, which is summarized by the word LOVE.

As followers of Jesus we walk in the light. As John states here, the reason that Jesus came was to destroy the works of the devil. In Genesis 3:15, in the midst of the darkness and chaos of Adam's sin and rebellion, God promised redemption through A seed who would stomp on the neck of the serpent but who himself would be bruised and battered. This signaled the ultimate prophecy and promise by God that the dominion of sin will not stand. Jesus is the King of the Light who came to establish His Kingdom that is here and is growing and will ultimately cover the earth. Through His Spirit Jesus calls His sheep into His Kingdom out of the kingdom of darkness.

How do these redeemed sheep live? **THEY DO NOT PRACTICE SIN!** They are born of the seed of God and CANNOT practice sin. They are new creations in whom the very Spirit of Christ dwells. They grow to hate and loathe sin and the grief that their sin causes God. They have new hearts with a disposition to bring pleasure and honor to the Father.

How do we know what sin is? Sin is lawlessness. This teaches us that we know we sin when we break God's revealed Law. The issue is not whether or not we feel bad or not. We can actually sin and not feel badly about it. Thankfully, God has given us a clear and objective standard for what He expects of us. John lets us know that the motivation in our hearts to live this new life is that of gratitude and joy over being called children of God. This is an expression of the great love that God has given to us. We also are motivated to live pure lives because we know that we shall see Jesus as He is. In the light of this great hope we pursue the freedom of walking in the purity and holiness of Jesus.

Jesus wants us to be people of integrity whose lives line up with what we believe. Don't just love in word but also in deed and in truth.