

**I John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude II**  
**FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD**  
**June 9, 2007**

On Pentecost, we discussed the early origins of the Christian Church and the Fairview Church and the relationships to the earlier Israelite holy day of Shavuot.

Within the first century, we find that the early Christian Church was already having challenges. 1 John was written around 85-90 AD – probably from Ephesus.

John's purpose in writing was to expose the heresy of the false teachers.

Notice there is no dedication or salutation such as is found in other epistles. This indicates it was probably a circular letter – John wrote it to be shared with all churches.

The main heresy being taught was Gnosticism = intuitive knowledge of spiritual manners.

**1 John 3**

- 1 ¶ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- 4 ¶ Whoever commits sin (**hamartain = transgression of the law**) also commits lawlessness (**anomia = rebellion against God**), and sin is lawlessness.
  - When a person willfully sins, he is committing an act of rebellion against God
  - When a person confesses that sin, they are forgiven and blotted out of the record
    - Reference: **1 John 1.8-9**
      - :8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
      - 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
      - 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.
- 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.
  - Abiding in sin means to live a life of sin – it is a way of life John was discussing – not an absolute statement that we are incapable of sinning from time to time

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- John was addressing the Gnostic teaching of being sinless by nature – they were teaching they were unable to sin because they were “born of God”
- 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
- 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
  - Reference: NIV “No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.”
  - Reference: Weymouth “No one who is a child of God is habitually guilty of sin. A God-given germ of life remains in him, and he cannot habitually sin--because he is a child of God.”
- 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.
- 11 ¶ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
- 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.
- 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.
- 14 ¶ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.
- 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
  - Reference: **Matthew 5**
    - 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'
    - 22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.
- 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
  - Reference: **John 3**
    - 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
- 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

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- 19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
- 20 ¶ For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
- 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.
- 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, *because* we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 23 ¶ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
- 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
  - Reference: **John 15**
    - 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
    - 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
    - 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.
    - 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
    - 13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
    - 14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
    - 15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
    - 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.
    - 17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

**1 John 4**

- 1 ¶ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
  - Believers should not be gullible and believe everything they hear from persons purporting to be teaching the truth
  - **Matthew 24**
    - 4 ¶ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.
    - 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5**

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- 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
- 12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,
- 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
- 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
- 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
- 16 ¶ Rejoice always,
- 17 pray without ceasing,
- 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- 19 Do not quench the Spirit.
- 20 Do not despise prophecies.
- 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.
- 22 Abstain from every form of evil.
- 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,
  - Jesus was 100% human – capable of sinning, but not doing so
  - **1 Corinthians 12**
    - 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.
  - John is again specifically addressing the Gnostics who denied Jesus was the Messiah
  - But what does this say about the different organizations that acknowledge Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?
  - Are they “of God”, and simply not obeying all His commandments in our traditions because they don't have the same interpretation as we?
- 4 ¶ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.
- 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
- 7 ¶ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
  - Reference our 3 week study about Love - agape

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- **1 Corinthians 13** = the Love Chapter
- 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.
- 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.
- 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
- 14 ¶ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.
- 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
- 17 ¶ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.
- 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
- 19 We love Him because He first loved us.
- 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?
- 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.