

WALKING IN LOVE AND OBEDIENCE

Sunday, July 3, 2022 -- 2nd JOHN series -- Msg 3 – Eric Spee, SHCS Headmaster

2nd JOHN 1:1-13

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. 5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete. 13 The children of your elect sister greet you.

REVIEW:

- 1) First John was a letter to many churches in the Roman province of Asia
- 2) Second John was a letter written to a specific church.
- 3) Third John was a letter written to a specific person.
- 4) False teachers were persisting and this church needed to be specifically warned.
- 5) The BIBLE constantly centers on the theme of TRUTH.
- 6) The WORLD increasingly REJECTS the truth.
- 7) The CHURCH is called the “PILLAR and FOUNDATION of the TRUTH”. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

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I. Following the Commands of the Father

A. The confusion of the times regarding commandments

1. John's times: Biblical commandments, man created commandments, traditions, the divinity of Jesus
2. *Conflicts* between Biblical mandates, Jewish traditions, influx of gentiles

B. Then AND Today

1. The pull towards *legalism*

- False doctrine alert: Keep all the commandments and I will be saved!

- Response:

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Romans 3:21-25

2. The pull towards *cheap grace*

- False doctrine alert: *God will forgive me so I have permission to keep on sinning.*

- Response:

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:1-4***

James 2:21-25

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! **20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

We have a newness of life in Christ Jesus and our works should reflect it!

II. Walking in Love

- A.** Greek word used in 2 John 4-6 is **agape** (selfless, unconditional, sometimes associated with God's love for us) not to be confused with *phileo* ("brotherly") or *eros* ("romantic")
- B. God' command to love from the beginning:**
- *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.* Deuteronomy 6:5
 - *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.* Leviticus 19:18
 - Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28 – Jesus affirms the commandments above as the greatest commandment
 - The Ten Commandments: the first four - (how to love God), the final six – how to love one another
- C. God's new commandment to love:**
- *7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever 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. 1 John 2:7-11*

III. Walking in Love and Obedience

A. What is the difference between the old and new commandment?

The example of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus lived sinless on earth and calls us to strive for the same.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15

- Jesus died sacrificially for our sins! We must love others sacrificially.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:12-13

B. What is our aim? **Be like Jesus!**

Ephesians 4:17-24

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.