

Life BPC Sunday School Adults' Class: Study of the First Epistle of John (Nov – Dec 2016)

Lesson 5: Consequences of Fellowship (1John 5: 1-21)

Overview

Being the last chapter, we will review the impact once we practise fellowship according to God's Word. We read of 4 aspects here – Victory over the world, Assurance of salvation, Guidance in prayer and Freedom from habitual sin.

#1 Victory over the World (5:1-5)

We are reminded that one way to demonstrate our love for God is in the keeping of His commandments (v.3). The Christian victory secured by Christ is the victory that overcometh the world (v.4). This means that Christians must have the boldness to believe that we are beyond the reach of danger - this removes fear and animates us to fight with courage. It is not to introduce indifference, but to render us always anxiously intent on fighting (John Calvin). Read 1Cor 15:57 & 2Cor 2:14.

#2 Assurance of Salvation (5:6-13)

Verse 7 (*Comma Johanneum*) is often quoted as missing in some Greek texts and hence missing in newer, modern translations. By God's grace, they are present in the Latin Vulgate and hence taught to the Church, and also preserved in the Greek texts underlying KJV. It is an important teaching on the Trinity. In v.6, water refers to the purity of Christ, while blood refers to the suffering of Christ (Matthew. Poole). The Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is understood as one God exists in three distinct Persons (Westminster Confession of Faith, chap 2). V.10-11 gave the assurance of salvation – he that hath the Son hath life! Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1).

#3 Guidance in Prayer (5:14-17)

A simple instruction to ask according to God's will (v.14) – read Mt 7:7-8. The guidance is to pray according to God's will - God's will as revealed in His Word. What is the sin unto death (v.16)? Read Mk 3:29 & Mt 12:31, Jer 7:16.

#4 Freedom from Habitual Sin (5:18-21)

We have the most assuring and comforting blessing from v.18 – we are the untouchables! As long we keep away from habitual sin and walk close to God, the wicked one could not touch us! "we know" x 3 – we know whosoever is born of God sinneth not, we know that we are of God, we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding. Finally, last verse is a strong rebuke and instruction to stay away from idols (read 1Cor 10:14, Col 3:5, Lev 19:4).

Summary of the Epistle of 1John:

The source of this fellowship – Jesus Christ

- His incarnation 1:1, 2:3, 3:5 &8
- His crucifixion 3:16, 4:9,10 & 14

The Purpose of this fellowship

- That we might know and love God and His people 1:4, 2:10, 3:18, 4:7, 5:13-15

The Requirements for this fellowship

- Walk in the light 1:7
 - Recognise our sins 1:8
 - Confess our sins 1:9
 - Keep His commandments 2:3-8, 3:22, 5:2 &3
 - Abide in Christ 2:28
 - Keep unspotted from the world 2:15, 5:21
 - Minister to the brethren in need 3:17
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Summary Quiz *(Adapted from The Willmington's Guide to the Bible)*

Tests of this fellowship <i>(to determine one's state of fellowship based on 1John)</i>	YES	NO
Do I conduct my life down here in view of the rapture? (3:3)		
Do I continually dwell in sin? (3:6&9, 5:18)		
Do I hate my spiritual brother? (4:20)		
Do I desire to help my brother? (3:17)		
Do I really love my brother? (4:7, 21)		
Do I really love God? (5:2)		
Do I enjoy a rapport with other servants of God? (4:6)		
Am I plagued with constant fear? (4:18)		
Am I able to overcome the world? (5:4)		
Can I recognize false doctrine when it comes my way? (4:1-3)		
Am I clear on the deity of Christ? (4:15, 5:1)		
Am I clear on the work of Christ? (5:13, 20)		

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