

“In Deed and Truth”

(1Jn 3:13-22)

PART 2



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Exposit: 1Jn 3:17



17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

☞ James says almost the exact same thing:

James 2:14-17

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

☞ If you have the means and ability to help a fellow believer in need, we are not to close our heart, we are to open our heart

☞ If you perpetually close your heart, that's a red flag that God's love (Holy Spirit) is not abiding in your heart

☞ This principal is also in the OT...

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Deuteronomy 15:7-8

7 “If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; 8 but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks.

- ☞ If a fellow Israelite was in need, the Jews were not to harden or close his heart to help, but instead is to be willing to help and lend whatever he lacks
- ☞ In fact, there is another principal in the OT, that when a Jew lends to a fellow Jew, he is not to charge interest

Deuteronomy 23:19-20

19 “You shall not charge interest to your countrymen: interest on money, food, or anything that may be loaned at interest. 20 You may charge interest to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are about to enter to possess.

- ☞ In the OT: There was a distinction between foreigners and Jews
- ☞ In the NT: There too is to be a distinction between believers and unbelievers (in how we help)

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- ☞ If we lend to someone, we are not to expect repayment back!

Luke 6:34-36

34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount (their money back with no interest). 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, **expecting nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

- ☞ But if we do get repaid back from a believer, we are not to charge interest

Exposit: 1Jn 3:18



18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

- ❧ You heard the saying “action speaks louder than words”, this is precisely what John is saying in v. 18
- ❧ It is easy to love with words
 - ❧ In fact, the world is very good at this
 - ❧ Saying the right things
 - ❧ Making the right apology
 - ❧ Reading a script basically
- ❧ John says we aren't to love with just words, but in action informed by truth
 - ❧ The more truth we know, the more opportunity we have to apply that truth in love
 - ❧ Our sinful heart might say, let's not grow in truth, so I won't be held to a high standard
 - ❧ If that is you, that is between you and your Heavenly Father (warning)
- ❧ In context, and James as cross reference, if we are in a position to help a struggling brother, don't just say the right thing (talk Christianese), but instead be willing to help provide their material needs

Exposit: 1Jn 3:19



19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

- ✎ Again, another tell-tell way to know if we are saved, is if we have an open heart to help fellow believers in need
- ✎ If we do so, we'll have assurance and joy
- ✎ If we don't, we'll lack assurance and joy

Exposit: 1Jn 3:20



20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

- ❧ As we learned, the human heart is woefully wicked and desperately sick and beyond cure
- ❧ It should be no surprise then if opening our heart to a fellow believer does not come naturally
- ❧ When we close our heart to a believer in need, the Holy Spirit will convict our heart and our heart will condemn us for that
- ❧ The promise in v. 20, is even if your heart condemns you, you have an opportunity to repent and get it right

Exposit: 1Jn 3:20



- ❧ So even if you initially closed your heart to help a fellow believer, John wants us to know that you have an opportunity to repent and open your heart
- ❧ Just because you didn't get it right the first time (you closed your heart and it condemned you for it), doesn't mean you don't have a 2nd chance
- ❧ v. 20 promises us that God is greater than your sinful heart and God knows (ginōskō) your struggle with sin is real
- ❧ If you don't love right the first time, it's ok, God is greater and still seeks for you to respond by opening your heart and love

Exposit: 1Jn 3:21



21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

- ❧ Whether we get it right the 1st time or 2nd or 3rd time, etc., and we respond to what's pleasing to God, we will have confidence before God
 - ❧ When we obey truth in love, we are blessed and our confidence (assurance) increases!
- ❧ Converse is true, if we remain to close our heart to help a believer in need, we won't have confidence before God, but rather shame and lack of assurance

Exposit: 1Jn 3:22



22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

☞ “whatever we ask we receive from him” (more on this)

☞ This is conditional

“whatever we ask we receive from Him”



- ❧ It is easy to twist v. 22 to suit our selfish ambitions
- ❧ “whatever we ask we receive from him” is:
 - ❧ Conditional and
 - ❧ Tied to keeping His commandments
- ❧ Let’s look at John 14 for those conditions...

“whatever we ask we receive from Him”



John 14:9-15 (after Jesus's the Way, the Truth, the Life claim and after Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father)

9 Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 **Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. 15 **“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

“whatever we ask we receive from Him”



- ❧ The condition in v. 22 is this:
 - ❧ Whatever we ask (in faith) that will glorify the Father in the Son; AND
 - ❧ If we are walking in His commandments (loving God and one another)
- ❧ The promise is this:
 - ❧ God will grant your prayer request!
 - ❧ Whatever you just asked, you will receive from God
 - ❧ Your faith will show love for God and for one another
 - ❧ We will show ourselves approved in deed and truth!

Application



- ❧ Love your neighbor (unbelievers)
 - ❧ Show mercy to them
- ❧ Love your brother (believers)
 - ❧ Show even more mercy to them
- ❧ In doing so:
 - ❧ We will pass the faith test
 - ❧ Our faith will be strengthened
 - ❧ Our assurance will increase!
 - ❧ Our confidence before God will increase as well!