

Clintonesque Christianity! *Slide Notations*

"If we say we have partnership with God and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth... but if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have partnership with one another and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin!

"He that says, "I know Him but keeps not His words, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him..." But whoever keeps His word, in him is the love of God perfected... and it's how we know we are in Him!

"Whoever abides in Him sins not; whoever sins has not seen Him, neither has he known Him. Let no one deceive you, he that does righteousness is righteous even as He is righteous.

What do we do with scriptures like that?

What do we do when confronted with the kind of truth that makes our head spin?

If we first submit, then study, the truth will come and set us free!

1John 1.6 It's *likely* that we will say we know God and try to excuse our "walk..." Our "walk" lifestyle/activity births from what we partner with! Partner with the world? Walk like it! Partner with enemy? Walk like him! Partner with God? Walk like Him! But if we say we are in *partnership* with God but live in the shadows and "do not the truth," we are deceiving ourselves/others!

Live in shadows! "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all!" v5

Fellowship with God cannot happen independently of our words and actions! Fellowship with God not only means we stand in it/but *become* light as well! All the shades we hide behind, have to be brought down...! Not exposing? No partnership!

Do not the truth! If we say, "I love God. I'm a good person. A solid Christian..." but continue w/the old lifestyle... *we lie!* Our profession is untrue! Our practice, opposed to God's nature! *The truth of God in us will produce truth coming out of us in words and actions!*

1John 1.7 It's *likely* that we will try to excuse our "walk" but if we come out of the shadows/expose our lifestyles... Will connect w/ "*one another*" Light with The Light! (obvious!). Light w/other lights! **Only darkness is anti-social!** And the cleansing blood of Jesus will keep us clean from all sin!

We would soon experience more truth of our partnership with God if we did more with the truth we have in us! And we would sooner experience more truth of partnership w/God if we had the help of the "one another's" in our life!

1John 2.4 There is a *likelihood* that we will say "I know Him, but I just can't *keep* His commandments," This is an *often repeated* lie and it keeps the truth from coming alive in us! We cannot "know" Him, the Holy One, w/o morality! Knowing Him means loving, obeying, and imitating Him! And God doesn't ask us to do things He hasn't provided the power to perform!

Keep! to watch over, guard, protect as a precious thing, *His words to/in us!* Life is in *keeping* the word Mt 19.17 Honest & good? Hear the word, *keep it*, and bring forth fruit w/patience. L8.15 If we love Him, we keep the Word! **HOLD IT DOWN! Hold on to! Grip it!**

1John 2.5 If we keep His words to us, protecting His words in us, the love of God is perfected in us *and it is the proof that we have connection!* The love of God is connected... Light on! The love for God is perfected... Light shining!

If we "keep" what we know, we will keep knowing more, and keep growing into His image... While others claim to know Him but deny Him by their works, we will prove our connection to Him by our works!

1John 3.6 It is likely that in our *developing* life that we will lose sight of Him! All of us struggle w/some area of sin... we lie if we say we have no sin! 1.8-10 But the degree of our pursuit of it/Him. Shows the degree of our blindness or clarity! *And how much of Him others will be able to see in us...*

1John 3.7 "Children" don't let anyone deceive you saying, "God knows how hard it is for you to make right choices..." *V8,9 "He that commits sin is of the devil – but Jesus has come to destroy the works of the devil... so that those born of God do not continue in sin anymore because His seed is in them!"*

The fact that we sin proves that our sight and knowledge of Him is imperfect and superficial... But continuing in sin is inconsistent with life in Christ, opposed to His work and contrary to His nature!

"Beloved, follow not that which is evil but that which is good... He that does good is of God, but he that does evil has not seen God."

In conclusion to John's thoughts that we must "be" who we "say" we are... He gives us a key in finding success as a Christ-follower!

3John John writes to a young guy he wants to see healthy/prosperous in God... Illustrates the way w/personalized examples of faith and of failure! *Gives us a key element to success!*

"Beloved... don't follow that which is evil... but that which is good."

3John, v11 "Evil" personified in a man named Diotrephes... "Good" in a man named Demetrius... A central truth to how we successfully live out our lives in Christ... *Is in the people we let influence us!*

Diotrephes... Proud/ambitious/opportunist - Self promoting/leader of the weak - Resistant of strong/John - Fearful/someone else spotlighted - Punishable deeds - Empty chatterer – Infectious – Slanderous – Inhospitable – Blind

Demetrius... Honest record - Lover of God/loyal to the Truth - Commended by the Chief Apostle - Humble/whole - A lover of the church - Diligent kingdom worker - Hi-resolution standard to copy - A "seeing" friend of God

One of the strongest influencers in our lives is the imitation of those who influence us most! Let us find and imitate only those who are good, clear eyed and clean hearted as far as they imitate The Truth!

He that does good is of God, follow him, but he that does evil has not seen God, don't follow him... Because if the blind lead the blind, both fall...

But I will follow those that call on the Lord from a pure heart... He that does good is of God, follow him, but he that does evil has not seen God...