

1st John # 17

“Confidence that Lasts”

1st John 1:1

Orthodoxy is living in the accuracy of Scripture; traditionalism is having some truth mixed with false doctrine leading to false application but since it has some truth, it's very deceptive and often very appealing to the flesh.

Gnosticism isn't traditional nor orthodox, yet it became the greatest revival of all time, bringing more Christian's into the cosmic system than any other activity, including intense persecution.

1st John also deals with other cults that spawned from Gnosticism, like asceticism and antinomianism or lasciviousness.

Since Satan deceived Eve in the Garden, the human race has been continuously under mind game attacks because we are exhibits of evidence in the angelic dispute trial of Satan. So, it's paramount for us to be able to spot counterfeit deceptions so that we don't enter the trap of false doctrine and become distracted from the Christian life, where our fellowship is disrupted and we suffer.

1st John emphasizes the danger of a wrong belief system that leads to bad practice rather than simply emphasizing bad practice or sin which 1st John 1:9 deals with.

We are attacked on the outside from Satan's world system and on the inside from our sin nature that easily falls prey to Satan's system of lies he uses to influence, praise, motivate, distract and deceive us.

We must be able to identify worldly philosophies in our culture because we live in a world where the dominant perspective rules and if we don't fall in line, we pay the consequences.

A strong person or group says this is true because I/we say so or we have others even in the church who say: 'I know that this is of God because my experience confirms it.'

But according to Scripture, God has never acted in a way that's inconsistent with His Word.

So, to be tolerant today, we must do away with free speech along with free-flowing thought and not only do we have to allow differing opinions but we must approve of them, sanctioning them as valid alternatives and if we don't approve, we are intolerant.

Replacing intolerance with acceptance means anything and everything can potentially be right and that's the satanic lie that neutralizes the church's influence on society.

So, of course, a Me-first generation develops and its philosophies dictate to the church, so the Christian life becomes a search to find myself instead of finding Christ because after all, isn't life about becoming more successful and fulfilled?

The Christian life is never just behavior, it's always first and foremost, thought and belief and that's what's being attacked in John's day as well as ours.

Biblical fellowship begins in the thought life with occupation with Jesus Christ, the filling

of the Holy Spirit and daily learning, believing and applying the Word; leading to behavior influenced by the mind of Christ so that even our conversations are biblical.

This sets us against our relative-thinking society but that shouldn't matter to us whose desire is to please God rather than men.

Knowing certain things are absolutely true produces confidence in God who gives us His knowledge and wisdom in which to trust.

Luke 2:40; 52

“And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on Him. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.”

Jesus grew as a man, matured and handled all the problems of life with biblical solutions and He remained sinless through the filling of the Holy Spirit which is the precedent for Church Age spiritual life.

Jesus showed that by depending on the filling of the Holy Spirit, we can face and handle any suffering or problem in life with confidence that lasts.