

1st John # 73

“Self-Examination Review”

1John 4:1-8; Ephesians 3:14-21

There is only one way we will ever come into harmonious intimacy with God and it begins with a non-meritorious expression of faith alone in Christ alone and it continues with the filling of the Holy Spirit because the number one fruit which means gain or profit of the Spirit is love and it's extremely profitable for us to love God.

God has revealed Himself to our finite minds through the ministry of the Holy Spirit's inspiration resulting in the infallible Word of God known to us as the Bible which contains the mind or thinking of Jesus Christ and that's where we learn that love never functions apart from grace; so all true love is grace and God provides His true love to us through His grace because we deserve nothing from Him and yet, God never rejects the unbeliever, the unbeliever rejects the love of God.

Advancement in the spiritual life is the sole preparation for standing before the Lord Jesus Christ as rewardable winners and that's why John keeps reminding us that Jesus made His 1st *appearance* to take away our sins and as His disciples, our lives should reflect our new family relationship with Him so that when He *appears* again, we will *appear* before Him for an evaluation and that's our incentive to trust Him today to love us as He promised.

'The children of God and the children of the devil' are NOT believers contrasted with unbelievers; our context has John comparing believers who live like children of God by primarily experientially abiding in fellowship with Jesus Christ and therefore don't consistently sin, with other believers who continue to act like they did as unbelieving children of the devil by not consistently abiding in Christ.

Note that first we believe in Jesus Christ which changes everything so that as we learn Who and What Jesus is and what He's done for us, our self-perception becomes one of spiritual self-esteem which along with the power of the filling of the Holy Spirit, gives us the ability to love as Jesus loves in continuous fellowship with Him which further gives us the absolute confidence that when we stand before Him, there's nothing to be ashamed of!

At the moment of our salvation, God the Holy Spirit indwells us positionally to enable us to learn and live the mind of Christ which develops an intimate fellowship with Jesus as we spend more time with Him and learn who He really is because we enjoy studying His Word and getting to know Him and what He wants for us.

When we're sinning, we've decided not to walk by means of the Holy Spirit but according to the flesh or sin nature instead and when we're not sinning and walking by the Holy Spirit, we're relying on Him and in that condition it's impossible for us to sin; so we have to willfully choose to stop walking by the Holy Spirit's influencing power before we can sin.

When we have maximum biblical truth in our souls, we can properly evaluate whatever we hear but this evaluation assumes we have a frame of reference and to get a frame of reference, we must have spent time studying the Word of God and therefore, when we develop that frame of reference in our souls, we can evaluate virtually anything that's taught by using God's truth as the standard.

Again, this is NOT about positional justification or salvation; it's about the fact that they're able to withstand and even overcome false teaching because their relationship with God the Holy Spirit is so strong that they continue in abiding fellowship with Jesus.

Loving one another is the result of knowing God and it's the normal Christian life.

The source of God's impersonal love is His holiness or integrity composed of His perfect righteousness, justice and love and while God's personal love is always limited to a few, His impersonal love is extended to the entire human race.