**Series on 1, 2, 3 John:  
Fellowship is a Family Affair**

1John 2:12-27

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Slides** | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Title Slide |
| 2 | Introduction  Last week we began this series of sermons from 1, 2, 3 John. We learned that “Children of God” true believers are to walk in God’s Light, repent of that sin, and to “love your brother.” These will lend to a joy, intimacy, and fellowship with God and the Center community of faith. We also recall that this church John was writing to was under persecution for their faith and that many were leaving. The context also refers to the “final day” before Christ returns. |
| 3 | I must be frank with you. I don’t know if we are in the final days or not. Yes, many of the signs are here – rumors of wars, all kinds of natural disasters, the earth is warming, and the polar ice caps are melting at a rapid rate and there is much animosity in the world, especially anti-Christian hatred; and the forces of evil seem to be growing. Yet, as I look back across history there have been many times where this same scenario has played out. For example, end of the Roman Empire, the medieval time of the bubonic plague and crusades, 1st World War, the 2nd World War to name a few. But my point is no one knows when Jesus will return. That means every generation has to be ready for it to happen at any moment. Thus, readiness is a priority. In these books of John, we get a steady diet of advice of how to live at any time, last days or not. |
| 4 | Today we look at 1John 2:12-27. The theme of fellowship with God and family continue.  In verses 2:12-17, John deals with the family relationships and the spiritual categories of our relationships.   1. Little children – means all who are believers that Jesus is God’s Son and died for their sins and thus have eternal life. Thus, all who believe are spiritually one with God through Christ. 2. Fathers – literally those old enough to have children, Spiritual John is addressing the mature Christians who teach younger ones in the ways of Christ. Don’t be like those who have turned to the world and replaced their love for God for the things of the world. Recall from last week love for the world is an expression of selfish love. Whereas the love for God means to intentionally pursue the well-being and the best for another person. The adults in the community are to teach this agape love to those younger than they are. 3. John address young people. John has much confidence in them. They are strong and because the word of God resides in them they are stronger than the evil one. |
| 5 | The issue in these categories is that being in fellowship with God can be broken if any yield to the love of the world. We live in the world but are not to be of the world, giving in to its standards. For example, there is the world of politics, the world of finance, the world of agriculture, the world of global trade. We have to be a part of these worlds, deal with politics, deal with finance, deal with food and deal with trade, but we can’t just play by the world’s rules and beliefs. We can’t give in to the worldliness and exclude God because this would lead us down the road of self-centered love which takes us out of our relationship with God and fellowship with one another. |
| 6 | John is concerned about these forces of the world that want to disrupt your abiding in God. In verses 18-19, John talks about the antichrists, those that have left and given themselves to the world; the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride in riches. They can grab your attention and keep you from that fellowship with God. |
| 7 | But John has an answer to this strong worldly influence. In verse 2:20, John tells us that the true believer has been anointed by the Holy One and thus have all knowledge. And in verse 27, the anointed have the truth and do not need anyone to teach you.  So what is John saying with this idea of anointing?  1st All who believe Jesus is Lord and one with the Father are anointed. That gives you truth.  Tony Evans explains this anointing by using the TV and cable/satellite/internet image. You have a TV but it is a blank screen unless you have the signals coming into it. It may be to an antenna, or cable or satellite or the internet to stream. But whichever you use – the TV screen is filled with pictures and sound. The TV is a mere receiver of the invisible content sent from various sources.  Tony likens these to us and the anointing that ALL believers have. God anoints us with the Holy Spirit by which everything of God is made known to the believer. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the content, God’s point of view. While we need preachers, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, the Bible helps us understand what the Holy Spirit is revealing to us. After all, John is teaching his church now with this text. But we do not need to be taught by the worldly perspective to tell us how to live and what decisions we need to make.  This anointing can be looked at as abiding in Christ. Abiding means continuously connected, our lives intertwined with God’s so that the conduit with the Holy Spirit always gives us a good signal. Yet, that is difficult. Some folks come to church with their receiver on (Holy Spirit) and hear the message from scripture and/or the preacher. But when they go out into the world, they turn their receiver to the world and begin to think and act like the world. This announcer or that leader gets their full attention, and they begin to adapt a full perspective the world offers. And they go back and forth week in and week out.  So, the messages from the Holy Spirit and the world get all tangled. And slowly one slips into the world’s perspective and out of God’s light. |
| 89 | Now, I need to give a small caveat here. A noted 20th century preacher, Karl Barth, said you should always preach with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other, meaning you need to make the Scriptures relevant to the current day world. Being anointed means you have your heart and ear turned to the Holy Spirit, but at the same time you are aware of what is going on in the world, but not listening to how the world demands on how to think and act. Be in the world but not of the world. |
|  | Abiding, being anointed by the Holy Spirit is like 2 examples also from Tony Evans.  1st – When you have dirty dishes many immediately attack them and scrub and scrub them trying to get the grease and food residue off. It’s hard work.  But the other way is to put the dirty dishes in hot soapy water and let them sit awhile. Then later, you come back for them and with a washing cloth you can easily slide the dirt off because the dishes have been abiding in the soapy water for a while.  That’s what is to abide in God, to be anointed by the Holy Spirit. If we let God’s spirit dwell in us, then the mind and the heart will make decisions that God desires for us to accomplish. God will slide off the false ways and directions of the world’s antichrists. Or maybe this illustration helps better. Who drinks hot tea? Are you a dipper and smasher or do you let your tea bag just sit awhile? Those that dip do a lot of work to get the water to change to tea. But those that let the tea bag sit – after a while of abiding in the water the water is changed to tea and ready to drink. Allowing yourself to abide in God; letting your receiver tune into the Holy Spirit God will change you and let you live and act in fellowship with Christ and with the church. |
|  | Conclusion –  We are called to be the church, living in God’s light, confessing our sin, and loving one another. Now John tells us to open our hearts and lives that we may know the anointing all Christians have. Our challenge is to tune ourselves to God’s frequencies and avoid a world that leads to self-centered living and thus miss the joy and confidence of living for God in a world that says no to God! |