

Session #2 - Life Together: Family
I John 2:6 - 3:24

We Were Made to Share Life Together in a Forever Family...

...membership in God's family rules out self-determination and self-interest!

The Christian Family Is Not an "Ideal" - But a Divine Reality (I Cor 12:12-18)

- Our dreams, illusions, fantasies of "church" often lead us to resent the reality! (I Cor 12:18)

...we no longer belong to ourselves (I Cor 6:19; Ro 14:7; 15:3; Ga 5:13)

- In this family we learn to walk "in step" with Christ (I Jo 2:6; 3:9-10)

...His love in us for one another will never die (Jo 13:1)

- We learn to live together as a family for the sake of the world (Jo 17:18; 20:21; 13:34-35)

...the church doesn't exist for itself: we are His "sacrament" for the world

Growing Up Together in Christ: Listening, Learning, and Loving Together

- God intends to grow us up in (and "as") a family (Phil 1:6; I Jo 2:12-14)

CHILDREN

Salvation/Deliverance

Christ is present

Work of cross for me

"receivers"

YOUNG MEN

Service/Devotion

Christ is prominent

Work of cross in me

"doers"

FATHERS

Sacrifice/Death

Christ is preeminent

Way of cross through me

"givers"

- Listening Together to the Truth: (I Jo 2:15-17)

...Learning about the world (the realm of "wanting") - "don't 'agape' the world!"

= "lust of the flesh" - wanting my own way

= "lust of the eyes" - wanting what I see

= "boastful pride of life" - wanting to appear important

(none of this is "from the Father", all of this is "passing away" - I Jo 2:16,17)

- the love of the world inspires false teaching!

...Learning about the eternal life (the realm of "having") - "agape" Him! (I Jo 2:17,25)

= having/saying what God says (I Jo 2:17,21)

= having/being at home in what He supplies (I Jo 2:20,24)

= having/investing in what lasts forever (I Jo 2:17)

...Learning about "anti-christs" (I Jo 2:18-24)... errors in the church

- Opposed, hostile to Christ; offer substitutes, counterfeits to His Saving Life (I Jo 2:22)
(they will take you back to "wanting" ...)

...one basic lie: Jesus Christ is not enough! (I Jo 2:22)

- Stay focused on "what you heard"... THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL!

TRUTH

COUNTERFEIT

SUBJECT	Always Person of God Father/Son/Spirit	Human behavior, sin/devil/law, knowledge
MEANS	Always Grace (Christ + nothing)	Self-improvement, willpower, insight
RESULT	Always liberty	Captivity, fatigue, boredom

...Learning about the indwelling Spirit of Truth (I Jo 2:24-29)

- Who will always direct us to Christ (Col 2:6; Jo 14-16)

- Who will always take us to the Justifier, Sanctifier, Glorifier (I Jo 2:23,27)

- Who will always lead us to invest in the eternal (Eph 5:18,22-23)

...Learning about loving one another into being (I Jo 3:1-24)

- The origins of our belovedness are "other-worldly" (I Jo 3:1-3; 4:19)

= a stunning power to this love (Jo 17:23)

= a saving power to this love (I Jo 4:10)

= a sanctifying power to this love (I Jo 3:3)

- The dangers of not loving:

...darkness (I Jo 2:9); ...stumbling (I Jo 2:10); ...disorientation (I Jo 2:11)

- At home in the Love of Christ:

...abide in Christ and sin is conquered (I Jo 3:6,9)

...abide in Christ and the devil is defeated (I Jo 3:8; Jo 14:30)

(neither sin nor the devil may use the love of Christ for its purposes!)

...the test of abiding in the love of Christ: the practice of righteous love (I Jo 3:10; 2:29; 3:16)

(sin and living for ourselves is pretty much the same thing)

...those not abiding in Christ's love:

= indifferent (I Jo 3:17); hateful (I Jo 3:15); murderous (I Jo 3:15)

= the principle of "death" (not "life") is at work!

...Christ's sacrificial love for us is now the love that is in us (I Jo 3:16-17)

...the witness of loving in deed and in truth:

= assurance (I Jo 3:19,24); God's pleasure (I Jo 3:22; Heb 12:2); confidence (I Jo 3:21,22);
simplicity/singleness (I Jo 3:23,24)