

Living as Children of God

Notes for 26 Apr

Jim Cunningham

Read: [1 John 2](#)

Steve led us in a stimulating discussion last Sabbath on both an introduction to 1 John and an exchange on chapter 1. One of the themes in 1 John that was identified was that of *fellowship*.

One commentator suggests that there are five major points in 1 John 2 supporting the concept of 'Fellowship':

1. Fellowship includes following Christ as our advocate. (1 John 2:1-6)
2. Fellowship includes love for one another. (1 John 2:7-14)
3. Fellowship fails if we love the world. (1 John 2:15-17)
4. Fellowship fails if we follow teachings that subvert the notion that Jesus is the Messiah. (1 John 2:18-27)
5. Fellowship includes 'abiding in Him'. (1 John 2:28-29)

Questions

1. There is a huge amount in this chapter, and I guess verses 1-6 could keep us engaged for the whole session. However, we have to be selective.
 - Explain why Christ needs to be our advocate?
 - Why does Christ have to be an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world?
 - "Be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments". Can we have a relationship with Christ without obeying His commandments?
 - "Whoever obeys His word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection". Explain?
2.
 - "I am writing you a new commandment that is true in Him and in you". Do verses 9-11 clarify what John is getting at?
 - Can you have a relationship with Christ if you don't love those in your community?
3. I think this is a key passage that provokes us to declare our priorities in our Christian lives.
 - "The love of the Father is not in those who love the world". Please explain?
 - "Those who do the will of God live forever". Is that the reason you do the will of God?

4. I may disappoint some by declaring that I have problems believing the Pope is the antichrist. Some explanation is required in parts of verses 18-27.
 - This passage gives a clear definition of the antichrist. "This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son". So, the huge majority of the world's population are antichrists or is it 'believers' who have given up on the divinity of Jesus, or some other group?
 - "Many antichrists have come. From this we know it is the last hour". Over the past 2000 years I suspect there have always been antichrists as defined in this passage. So, has there always been "last hours"? Please explain?
5. "And now little children, abide in Him".
"You can be sure that everyone who does right has been born of Him"
What do you think these two statements mean?