

READING JOHN'S FIRST LETTER TOGETHER – WEEK 3

Monday 25th July – 1 John 3. 21-24

Notice how this all fits together:

1. We believe in the name of Jesus;
2. Love for Him results in obedience
3. Obedience means loving one another
4. Love brings good relationships and a clear conscience
5. Clear consciences are the key to confidence in prayer
6. If we ask with this confidence, we will receive!

How far is this chain reflected in your life?

Do you know the Spirit's confirmation that God lives in you?

Tuesday 26th July – 1 John 4.1-3

How can we know what is right?

We will hear many voices – both from human guides and from thoughts in our minds. But which should be followed?

John offers us a simple test:

Do they acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and is from God? (v2)

Evil forces would never acknowledge that.

Has that test ever let you down?

Let's try using it more often!

Wednesday 27th July – 1 John 4.4-6

'Young men' – that mid-point of Christian maturity – have overcome the evil one because the Word of God lives in them (see also 2.14)

It is the one who is in us – the Holy Spirit – who enables us to discern right from wrong, good from evil;

We will often find ourselves in disagreement with unbelievers – but that doesn't make us wrong!

Rather we should persist in what we know to be right and true – even if the culture of our nation, our town, our employer or whoever suggests otherwise!

Thursday 28th July – 1 John 4.7-9

Getting repetitive, isn't it?

But persevere, and allow John's message to indwell your life.

God is love.

The measure of love is God's love.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. (John 3.16)

We are called to love as God loves.

Friday 29th July – 1 John 4.10-12

Jesus came as an atoning sacrifice.

That means He does not just forgive us – but actually paid the penalty for our sins.

That is the measure of love.

So, when we are wronged, we are called to pay the price rather than seek revenge!

In countries where Christians are persecuted, it is so often the love of the persecuted for their oppressors that causes wrongdoers to change!

Is God's love being completed in you by your love for others?

Saturday 30th July – 1 John 4.13-15

OK We recognise that the lifestyle John is encouraging is humanly impossible. But we are not called to adopt this in our own strength!

We can only honour God when He indwells us and we indwell Him.

Here is an invitation to share in the Trinity!

Mindblowing stuff!

Sunday 31st July – 1 John 4.16-18

God is love.

If God lives within us, we will be full of His love!

And it is this trust in His love that gives us the confidence not just to make requests (3. 21-22) but also to face the final judgement (v17)

Are you afraid?

If so ask God to fill you to the brim with His reassuring love – and allow that to flow through you to others.