

It Is Finished

John 19:30 Jesus said, “*It is finished*”

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not **imputing** their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- God is not holding our sins against us
- “God isn’t mad at you. Your sins aren’t a problem!”

2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- The debt has been paid
- The books have been reconciled

We Need to Approach God with Confidence

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Mercy – I don’t get the punishment I deserve
- Grace – I get the favor I don’t deserve

God's True Nature

Grace and mercy have always been God's nature

The law was given as a tutor and a disciplinary to restrict the amount of sin being committed

Luke 16:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ “The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

- The law was only temporary until Jesus came to end it
- It was given by Moses, but Grace and Truth by Jesus

Galatians 3:23–26 (NKJV)

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- 6000 years of existence
- 2500 from the fall till Moses
- 1500 from Moses to Jesus
- 2000 years from Christ till now

God had to create the law to teach us right from wrong until we could be born again

Remember, people don't go to hell for individual sins but for rejecting Jesus

- If you've accepted Christ, then you have a relationship with God
- You're not going to do anything that surprises God and hasn't already been dealt with
- Past, present and future sins are taken care of

When you realize that God paid for your sin and that He isn't mad at you it enables you to enjoy God's love in a much deeper way

- Faith works by love – **Galatians 5:6**
- When we get a revelation of this it will affect every area of our life

Relationship with God

1 John 1:1–4 (NKJV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

John was saying that when you receive a revelation of Jesus you can then have a relationship with us God the Father, and the Son

This close intimate relationship with God is actually the true goal of Christianity

- When you understand how much God loves you it increases your relationship with Him
- As you come to know Him more, He reveals things to you
- Everything in the Christian life flows out of this

In both the world and the Church people are trying to find joy in every possible way except intimacy with God

- Everything we need flows through a daily, vital, growing relationship with Him

1 John 2:3 (NKJV)

³Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

- Many people see this and other concepts backwards
- Religion produces a backward understanding of God and our relationship with Him
- Its not by keeping God's commandments that we know Him
- Its through knowing Him that we keep His commandments

If you're in a true relationship with God, you'll know

- Through loving Him, His love will flow through you to other people
- If you haven't experienced God's love it is impossible to love other people unconditionally
- You can't give away what you don't have

Do I really love God, and truly have is His love in me?

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- Gods love will cause you to live right and treat other people right
- Trying to love people and love God better will not work
- We should be asking God to reveal His love to us, rather than trying to love Him in our own strength
- When you get filled with the Love of God you will start to treat people differently

1 John 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

- Most people will say,

“I don’t want to be a liar, I want to operate in the truth. So, what do I have to do?”

○ *“I have to keep the commandments.”*

John isn’t saying that if you keep His commandments you’ll know Him

- He is saying that if you know Him you’ll keep His commandments

Having an intimate relationship with God will cause you to love other people

1 John 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

- People think, if I keep God's word His love will be perfected in me
- The truth: If Gods love is perfected in you, you'll keep His word
- Living holy is a fruit, not the root!
- It's a by-product of knowing Him

The Love of God will Motivate you to live differently

Matthew 5:39–41 (NKJV)

³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

- This is not just hard to do, its impossible
- Human nature doesn't act this way
- The flesh wants to fight and hurt somebody
- God asks us to do something that's humanly impossible
- We need a relationship with God that comes through Jesus Christ
- That way its no longer us living, but Christ living in and through us

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Colossians 3:3 (NLT)

³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

- When you have a relationship with God, you have been forgiven
- You are able to turn around and love someone else

When you come into relationship with the Lord, that relationship will motivate you

2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

- Evangelism isn't something we make ourselves do to earn God's favor
 - Church of the white sign "*The wages of sin is death.*"
 - Knocking on doors
- When you have a revelation of the love of God you want to tell others
- God's love compels us
- We can't help but tell others how good God is

God's not holding your sins against you! That's good news!

1 John 2:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

⁸ Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

- This sounds a bit confusing
- Is it a new commandment or an old one?
 - It's both
- Its not that you aren't supposed to love the Lord, worship God, study the word, pray, and seek Him
- Its not that you aren't supposed to love people and treat them right
- It's the same thing the Old Testament said, but now a different motivation
- Therefore, it's a new commandment
- Love God, Love people
- As you do you'll automatically do these other things

You wouldn't lie, cheat, steal or gossip about someone

- All lying is manipulation
- When you steal, you're only thinking of yourself
- When you gossip about someone you don't care about them
 - If you cared about them you would talk to them
- All lying, stealing and gossip is self-love
- You don't really care about someone else's feelings or situation

A revelation of God's love changes you from the inside

1 John 4:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

- Again, love is a by-product of knowing God
- We don't walk in love to know God or earn favor with Him
- You need to receive His love first and then give it to others
- If you're filled with God you're filled with love
 - Its that simple

God loved us first, we are responding to that love

- If you think God is dealing with you based on performance that's how you'll deal with others
- You'll be mean
- Religion will make you harsh!

1 John 4:11–16 (NKJV)

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

- Living holy doesn't earn us favor with God
- However, it is evidence of His presence in our lives

Someone may say, *"Oh, you know God and I are best friends. He and I are tight. I love Him with all of my heart."*

- Yet they don't trust God in their giving
- They are lying, stealing committing adultery
 - I'm not talking about an isolated mistake
 - I'm talking about a lifestyle

If you are living like the devil, you can say anything you want, your lifestyle is proof of whether or not you have had a revelation of the love of God

- Our holiness doesn't make God love us
- But if God's love is dwelling in us, and we are dwelling in it, His love will cause us to live holy, set apart lives

If you say you really know God, and have a great relationship with Him

- Yet, you're mean – you don't love others
- You never do anything for anyone
- You see people in need
- You never reach out and help
- You don't think about anyone else besides yourself

You haven't experienced the fullness of the love of God

1 John 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

You can say you love God, but your actions will tell if His love is dwelling in you

- Living properly
- Treating other people right
- Loving your spouse

These are all by-products of your relationship with God

Many of us know the story of Joseph:

- His brothers sell him into slavery out of jealousy
- Potiphar ends up buying him
- His wife presses Joseph to commit adultery with her

Genesis 39:9 (NKJV)

⁹ There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

- Joseph didn't consider whether or not he'd get caught
- He didn't rationalize, "After all I've been through, I deserve it."
- He didn't sin because of his relationship with God
- That's what kept him straight

Many people have a set of rules

All they have is “Behavior Modification”

- You may be trying to stop some habit
- Thinking that doing so will make you right with God
- Yet in your heart you really don’t know how much God loves you
- You haven’t been enjoying Him

If you really fell in love with God, you would find that other things would fall by the wayside

If you are struggling in some area of life, I’m not saying try harder to be nicer

Instead, go to God and say,

“Father, I recognize the reason I’ve been like this is I don’t have a revelation of your love.” “I’m just treating people the way I’ve been treated and the way I’ve believed You’re treating me.” “Lord, I need a revelation of your love for me.”

Love is a greater motivator than fear

1 John 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- When you have a spiritual revelation of God’s love, and start walking in it, your actions will change