

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Birthmarks of the Believer

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 John 2:3-10

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2103

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) When we were Heaven-born, we became Heaven-bound.
- b) When we were Heaven-born and Heaven-bound, God put some indelible marks upon us.
  - i) These are the traits of the twice-born.
  - ii) These are the birthmarks of the believer.
    - (1) If we do not find these birthmarks or traits, then we need to ask ourselves if we have ever really been saved.
    - (2) It is one thing to talk religion; it is another thing to have it.
- c) 1 John 2:4
- d) 1 John 2:6
- e) 1 John 2:9
  - i) Each of the above verses begin with “He that saith...”
    - (1) It is one thing to talk the talk; it is another thing to walk the walk.
    - ii) Each of these phrases also introduces a trait of the twice-born, a birthmark of the believer.
- f) Today’s message will look at these traits and see what a true believer is.

2) A TRUE BELIEVER SUBMITS TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

- a) 1 John 2:3-4
- b) No one can be saved without receiving Christ as Lord.
  - i) Acts 16:31
  - ii) Romans 10:9
  - iii) We don’t receive Christ as Savior and then later make Him Lord.
    - (1) We receive Him as Lord and Savior at the same time.
- c) It is a contradiction to say that Christ is your Lord, yet you don’t keep His word.
  - i) Luke 6:46
  - ii) “Lord” means “Master.”
    - (1) He has every right to give His commandments.
- d) If a person claims to be a Christian but doesn’t keep Christ’s commandments, then the apostle John says that that person is a liar.
  - i) 1 John 2:4
  - ii) This does not mean that we have to be perfect in order to go to Heaven.
  - iii) “Keep” in 1 John 2:4 means “to guard,” as someone would guard a treasure.
    - (1) When we treasure the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, when they are precious to us, we set value in those commandments.
  - iv) The word “keep” was also used by sailors in ancient times.
    - (1) At night, the sailors would steer by the stars.
      - (a) This was called “keeping the stars.”
      - (b) They would set their course by keeping the stars.
  - v) As Christians, we should set our course in life by keeping the commandments.

- (1) We should treasure those commandments and steer by those commandments.
  - (2) This doesn't mean that we will never be blown off course or take our eyes from the stars in a time of carelessness.
  - vi) A person who has no desire to live by the Word of God and who can sin carelessly and flippantly without any conviction needs to be saved.
  - e) We are not saved by keeping the commandments.
    - i) 1 John 2:4 does not teach salvation by works.
      - (1) "He that saith, 'I know Him,'" is in the perfect tense, which speaks of something done in the past.
        - (a) It is done and settled.
      - (2) He "keepeth" commandments because he is now keeping; this is in the present tense.
      - (3) John is saying, "Because I have known Him, I am now keeping the commandments."
        - (a) Verse 4 does not say, "Because I'm keeping the commandment, I know Him."
    - ii) The only way to keep the commandments is to know Him.
    - iii) If we have Jesus in our heart and we have known Him (perfect tense), then we will be keeping His commandments (present tense).
  - f) Do you have a desire in your heart to live by the Word of God?
    - i) If not, then you should re-evaluate whether or not you are saved.
    - ii) If Jesus Christ is not Lord of your life, then you are not on the road to Heaven.
  - g) This is not legalism, it is love.
    - i) We keep the commandments of Jesus because we love Him.
    - ii) John 14:15
    - iii) John 14:21
    - iv) If we don't keep His commandments, then we don't really love Him.
      - (1) If we don't love Him, then we're not saved.
      - (2) We don't keep the commandments in order to be saved.
  - h) A person who is twice-born submits to the Lordship of Christ and keeps His Word.
    - i) Luke 6:46
- 3) A TRUE BELIEVER SEEKS THE LIFESTYLE OF JESUS CHRIST (1 JOHN 2:5-6)
- a) This passage is not talking about Jesus' Lordship but His lifestyle.
    - i) We are to walk as Jesus walked.
  - b) If what we call "being saved" doesn't make us more like Jesus, then we haven't been saved.
    - i) Being saved makes us like Jesus.
  - c) 1 John 2:6
    - i) "Even as He," means our life is to be even as His life was.
  - d) 1 John 4:17

- e) What is the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus?
  - i) A life of honesty
    - (1) 1 John 1:7
      - (a) “*To walk in the light*” means to be honest.
    - (2) 1 John 1:6
    - (3) The lifestyle of Jesus is a life of honesty.
      - (a) Honest with God.
      - (b) Honest with self.
      - (c) Honest with others.
    - (4) A person who has a life built upon dishonesty is not walking as Jesus walked and is not walking in the light.
      - (a) Someone who is not walking in the light has no right to call himself or herself a child of God.
  - ii) A life of purity
    - (1) 1 John 3:3
    - (2) A person who feeds on filth and debauchery and is a lover of pornography should not call himself or herself a child of God.
      - (a) This does not mean that we cannot slip into sin.
      - (b) But if this is your lifestyle, then you’re not walking as Jesus walked.
  - iii) A life of righteousness
    - (1) 1 John 3:7
    - (2) Righteousness is not merely the abstaining from doing what is wrong.
    - (3) The Lord Jesus went about doing good.
      - (a) Acts 10:38
- f) How can we have the lifestyle of Jesus?
  - i) The key is in 1 John 2:6.
    - (1) We are to abide in Him.
  - ii) John 15:5
    - (1) “To abide” means to have the relationship with Jesus Christ that a branch in a grapevine has to the main stem in that vine.
- g) How do we abide in Jesus?
  - i) A life of reliance upon Jesus
    - (1) The branch (representing us) completely and totally relies upon the vine (Jesus).
    - (2) The branch can do nothing of itself.
    - (3) All that the branch needs is in the vine.
    - (4) The branch clings to the vine, grows out from the vine and receives whatever it needs from the vine.
      - (a) In the summertime when the branch needs moisture, the vine gives moisture.
      - (b) In the spring when it’s time to produce the grapes, the branch doesn’t worry about how many grapes, what size, what color or how sweet the grapes should be.
        - (i) All the branch does is just abide in the vine.

- (c) The branch does not produce the grapes; it only bears the grapes.
  - ii) A life of relinquishment upon Jesus.
    - (1) The branch relinquishes everything to the vine.
    - (2) Jesus came to the Earth as a man to live before us as a man, and so He set the example of abiding.
      - (a) John 5:19
      - (b) Jesus was abiding in the Father, and the life of God was reproduced in the human Jesus here upon this Earth.
  - iii) Abiding is a life of absolute dependence and complete relinquishment.
    - (1) The branch has no other side issues.
      - (a) It clings completely to the vine.
      - (b) It rests in the vine.
      - (c) The life of the vine comes into the branch.
- h) If we are going to have the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must abide in Him.
  - i) When we abide in Him and we are to Jesus what Jesus was to the Father, then Jesus will be to us what the Father was to Jesus.
  - ii) 1 John 2:4, 6
- i) Abiding in Jesus is not the same as simply asking ourselves what would Jesus do if He were here.
  - i) First of all, when we ask ourselves “What would Jesus do?” in any situation, that presumes that we know what Jesus would do.
    - (1) Jesus will often do what we would not think He would do.
    - (2) We cannot put Jesus in a box and run Him through the grid of our own rationalism.
  - ii) It also presumes that if we knew what Jesus would do, we could do it.
  - iii) When we ask ourselves “What would Jesus do?” if He were here, the fact is that He is here!
    - (1) He is alive in us.
    - (2) We need to let the Jesus in us be Jesus.
      - (a) He is the one who knows what He would do, and He’s the one who can do it.
- j) Living the Christian life is a life of supernatural reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - i) We walk as He walked because we abide in Him.

4) A TRUE BELIEVER SHOWS THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST (1 JOHN 2:9-10)

- a) We share His love.
- b) This love is both old and new.
  - i) It is old because Jesus said that love is the first and great commandment.
    - (1) Matthew 22:36-38
      - (a) It goes all the way back to the Old Testament.
  - ii) It is new because Jesus gave a new commandment to love one another.
    - (1) John 13:34

- (2) At the time Jesus gave this new commandment in John 13, He had been washing the disciple's feet in the upper room.
  - (a) John 13:4-5
  - (b) Peter, a crude and arrogant braggart, was in this room.
  - (c) James and John, who were called "Sons of Thunder" and had hair-trigger tempers, were in this room.
    - (i) Mark 3:17
    - (ii) Luke 9:54
  - (d) Simon the Zealot, who knew nothing but hatred for the Romans before He met Jesus, was in that room.
  - (e) Andrew, who was quiet and sensitive, was in that room.
  - (f) Phillip, who was calculating, was in that room.
  - (g) Thomas, who was very cynical, in that room.
  - (h) Jesus loved them all.
- c) Jesus doesn't love us because we're lovely; He just loves us.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) If a person is saved, it will show in his life.
  - i) We are not saved by keeping the commandments.
  - ii) We are not saved by walking as Jesus walked.
  - iii) We are not saved by loving our brother.
  - iv) But if we are saved, we will do these things.
    - (1) They will come out of the life that has met the Lord Jesus.
    - (2) If your religion hasn't changed your life, then you had better change your religion because you don't have the New Testament kind.
- b) How do you know the Lord?
  - i) You know Him by faith.
    - (1) You trust Him as your Lord and Savior by faith.
- c) If you would like to trust the Lord Jesus today, you can do so right now.
- d) Pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16