

“Know the Difference”

1 John 5:13-21

December 29, 2013

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

VIDEO: “Christmas Really Happened”

What did (this) Christmas change for YOU?

Think about it....

You're answer may be found in your upcoming
"New Year's Resolutions"

If your resolutions are self-serving, superficial,
or simply void of Christ-likeness...

Then you missed the whole point of Christmas...

...and... while you may be "IN" a church today...
you may NOT yet "BE" the Church.

(either way...)

**As we close out the book of 1st John & 2013
this morning, one thing is absolutely certain...**

**Both John & Jesus want you to KNOW
where you stand with
Him & His family!**

T/S: “You cannot biblically KNOW...
what you do not biblically BELIEVE!” - JDP

The “head” knows nothing without the heart’s validation! - JDP

You cannot biblically KNOW the Solution...
if you do not biblically BELIEVE the problem.

You can’t & won’t biblically KNOW Christ...
unless & until you biblically BELIEVE Christ.

- “I came to testify to the truth”
- ...sheep amongst wolves...
- John 14:6
- Great Commandments
- Great Commission
- Missional Koinonia
- To love Me is to obey Me...
- Revelation 2-3 (7 letters)
- Pick up your cross daily...
- Parable of the Soils
- Parable of the Servant’s service
- Rich Young Ruler...
- Matthew 7:21ff (workers/builders)

T/S: Don’t ever forget the ultimate reason for
Christmas... for the Bible... for 1st John... for
your life and mine...

**To bring glory to God thru the sharing & spreading
of the gospel of Jesus Christ!**

v.13 = Knowing we're **Healed**

*I have written **these things** to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know** that you have eternal life.*

Those who BELIEVE the truth... KNOW the Truth!

Such are God's adopted children...

"The Church is...

the hurt who have been healed." -JDP

2 Priorities of 1st John: **Define & Defend** the Church

The "healed" = EKKLESSIA in KOINONIA

- the ODD
- the OBVIOUS
- the OBSESSED
- the OVERCOMERS!

VIDEO: Elevation Worship: **"All Things New"**

Elevation Worship: *"All Things New"*

Hear the sound of our chains

They come crashing down

There's freedom in your name

The cross erased our guilt and shame

The past can't condemn the ones

Who bear your name

Pre-chorus: We found our hope in you (repeat)

Chorus: You make all things new, new life found in you You restore the years that we have wasted You make all things new, your love breaking through There's healing in your wake and we are changed

Verse: Hear the shout of your church The rescued and redeemed Lord we are yours Saved by grace by grace we live Nothing separates the love you give

Pre-chorus (3x)

Chorus 2: You make all things new, new life found in you You restore the years that we have wasted You make all things new, your love breaking through There's healing in your wake and we are changed You leave healing in your wake and we are changed There is healing in your name for us to change

v.14 = Knowing we're **Heard**

14 *This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

VIDEO: "Leap of Faith" (deaf of Madagascar)

v.15 = Knowing we "**Have/Hold**" (*possess*)

15 *And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*

Remember the 3 Pillars of 1st John:

1. Truth
2. Love
3. Faithful Obedience

That which is beckoned for & built upon these 3 pillars will ultimately be provided by the Prince of Peace!

v.16 = Knowing we're *Helpers*

16 *If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.*

Remember the 4 Purposes of 1st John:

1. ***Promote*** Koinonia
2. ***Prevent*** Sin
3. ***Protect*** against:
 - a. Darkness
 - b. Worldly
 - c. Liars
 - d. Antichrists
 - e. False Spirits
 - f. Children of the Devil!
4. ***Provide*** Assurance

Mark Dever QUOTE:
(via: "*Preaching the Cross*")

Do you see how important this is for the glory of God and the good of his people? Why, in so many of our churches, is it *unusual* to see someone giving their all to follow Christ, and growing in him? Is it because we allowed people who are in open unrepentant sin to continue on in our congregation, and so have diluted the witness, the fellowship (a.k.a. "koinonia")? Why have we so

neglected church discipline? Is it because we've not followed biblical instructions on leadership in the congregation (which we need in order to successfully practice church discipline), and why have we also neglected the Bible's clear teaching on church discipline itself? Why have we neglected discipline? Is it because we don't teach about what church *membership* entails? And why would that be? Because we haven't made it clear what it really means to be a Christian in the first place? And why would that be? Because we've misunderstood the gospel? How could that be? Because we have misunderstood the Bible? And why would that be the case? Because we've had pastors who—with the best of motives—have given themselves to everything in the world before giving themselves to the study and preaching of God's Word! We've spent more time reading our email than our Bible. We have defended the Bible's authority more than experienced its power in our own lives.

Ministers are servants and stewards of God's Word—that's the message we are to deliver....

***** Above everything else, a steward is called to be faithful. Paul is emphatic when he tells the Corinthians: *"It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).*

v.17 = Knowing we're **Held**

17 *All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.*

v.18 = Knowing we're **Holy**

18 *We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God (Jesus) keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

Elevation Worship: ***"Mercy Reigns"***

My God is strong enough to raise me from the grave
Your love is great enough to take away my shame

Your mercy reigns

My God is making new the wreckage of my heart
Your hand is reaching down to pull me from the dark

chorus:

Your mercy reigns
Your mercy covers me
Your grace sustains
Your grace is all I need

verse 3:

Your spirit is my strength to overcome the past
I set my eyes on you and find a grace that lasts

chorus

I'm forgiven, washed inside a love that never lets go
You never let go

5 Proofs of 1st John:

1. Walking in the Light vs. the darkness
2. Faithful Obedience vs phony disobedience
3. Being Worshipful vs. being Worldly
4. Patterns of life vs. promises of lips
5. “Know Him” vs. saying “No!” to Him

v.19 = Knowing we're ***His***

19 *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

Elevation Worship - ***“Nothing Is Wasted”***

You know my every need... You see my poverty.
You are enough for me, Jesus.
You gave the blind man sight... You raised the dead to life.
You've done the same for me, Jesus.
You are loving, You are wise...
There is nothing in my life You cannot revive.
You are loving, You are wise...
There is nothing too hard for our God.
Your word inside of me... My strength, my everything.

My hope will always be - Jesus.
Your breath inside my lungs... You're worthy of my trust.
You will forever be - Jesus.
You are loving, You are wise...
There is nothing in my life You cannot revive.
You are loving, You are wise...
There is nothing too hard for our God.

Nothing is wasted... You work all things for good.
Nothing is wasted... Your promise remains...
Forever You reign[x2]
Your promise remains...
Forever You reign.

You are loving, You are wise...
There is nothing in my life You cannot revive...
You are loving, You are wise...
There is nothing too hard for our God.

Nothing is wasted... You work all things for good.
Nothing is wasted... Your promise remains... Forever You reign...
Your promise remains... Forever You reign...
Your promise remains... Forever You reign!

v.20 = Knowing we're *in-Him*

20 *And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

Elevation Worship: *“The Highest”*

Glory to God, the Highest
No other name but Jesus
All of creation cries out
Glory to God, the Highest

Hallelujah to the King
Hallelujah to the King
Hallelujah to the King
Who reigns alone

Jesus, You're high and lifted up
Messiah, You're high and lifted up
Hosanna, Savior, high and lifted up

Glory to God, the Highest
No other name but Jesus
All of creation cries out
Glory to God, the Highest

The Church is... (per 1st John)

- K WE learn, love & live the truth... together!
- O WE are ambassadors of Christ - in koinonia, together!
- I WE are tested... and we testify – together!
- N WE have been warned... and we warn others – together!
(about the wolves).

- O WE know, grow, and go... together!
- N WE consist of Christ-likeness & compassion – together!
- I WE persevere with God’s power & passion – together!
- A WE know... that we Know... that we KNOW – together!

v.21 = Knowing we’re ***Held-accountable***.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

NOTE: loving, abrupt, commanding close.

There’s a laundry list of modern idols...

Fame

Fortune

Facebook

Family

Fashion

Power

Prestige

Profession

People/Personalities

***** #1 idol of our day is SELF *****

NOTE: Colossians 3:5... "covetousness = idolatry"

= ...wanting other than God's position & provision. - JDP

Hence Christ's command that we die to self...

"Pick up your cross daily & follow Me."

There is NO Church where Christ is not King! - JDP

Saints have been saved to serve! - JDP

VIDEO: *"Adopting the Bedia"*

***** THE BRIDGE will seek to adopt an UUPG in 2014 *****

Acts 1:8...

Jerusalem = 20 mile radius

Judea/Samaria = Vermont

Ends of the earth = *Dolomites???*

(we will pray & fast to clarity)

T/S: **The Church...** (per 1st John 5:13-21)

v.13 is HEALED

v.14 is HEARD E

v.15 HAS/HOLDS K

v.16 is HELPERS K

v.17 is HELD L

v.18 is HOLY E

v.19 is HIS S

v.20 is In-HIM I

v.21 is HELD-Accountable A

Closing Worship/Prayer:

Elevation Worship - ***“The Church”***

We are the change the world is waiting for...
We've got a love the world is desperate for.
We will lead and take to your streets...

Now's the time for us to rise,
and carry hope and let love shine;
and show this world that mercy is alive.
Now's the time for us to rise.
and carry hope to hopeless eyes;
and show this world that mercy is alive.

We're not afraid...
We will abandon all...
to hear your name on lips across the world.
We will run in the wake of your love

Now's the time for us to rise,
and carry hope and let love shine;
and show this world that mercy is alive.
Now's the time for us to rise.
and carry hope to hopeless eyes;
and show this world that mercy is alive.

Fill our hearts with your compassion...
Let our love be active here

Now's the time for us to rise,
and carry hope and let love shine;
and show this world that mercy is alive.
Now's the time for us to rise.
and carry hope to hopeless eyes;
and show this world that mercy is alive.