

HE STANDS UP FOR US PART VI

In **I John**, John is opposing the teaching of the Gnostics who were causing trouble in his day. Gnostics were dualists...worshiping more than one god...they were out to eradicate ignorance via special revelations and learning. They didn't care about the eradication of sin. The teaching of the Gnostics did not lead to righteousness or goodness but to intellectual pride and social elitism. Jesus came to destroy such teaching and the attitudes it produced. (See **I John 3:8**)

The devil is the 'original' sinner...he is a created being of incredible capacity who rebelled against God, and he attempts to usurp God's authority by setting himself up as a rival ruler of the universe...this is where evil originates, and sin finds its source.

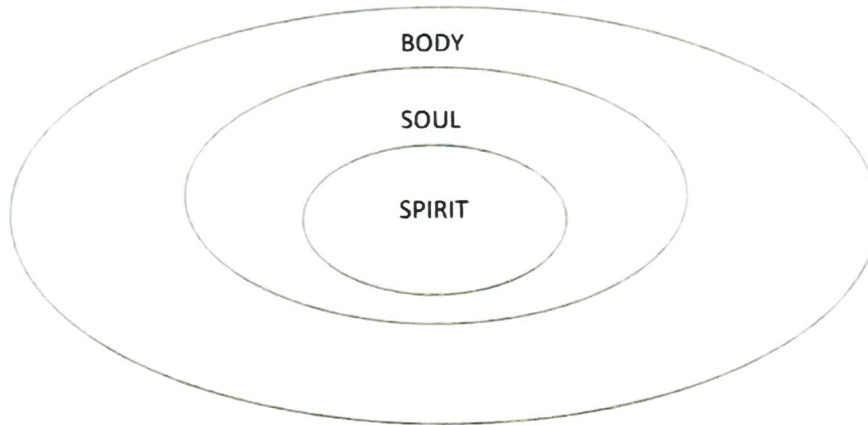
- We are born again to do what Jesus came to do...that is to destroy, overcome and undo the works of the enemy.

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. **Hebrews 2:14-15 NASB**

- We should not expect perfection in our own lives or the lives of those around us (we are to live blameless not sinless). But we should not accept mediocre levels of living either. Living water should never be served 'lukewarm'. We don't want to only live a 'room temperature' life. We sin when we fall to separated thinking and act as who we aren't. when we live in our identity, we are much less prone to sin. Walking in love, walking in the spirit is living righteously...faith working through love leaves little time, energy, or desire for sins.
- ⁷Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. **I John 3:7-10 NASB**
- ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. **I John 1:8-10 NASB**
- ⁸The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. **I John 3:8-9 NASB**

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- May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I
Thessalonians 5:23 NASB



¹¹For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; ¹²not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

¹³Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. I **John**

3:11-18 NASB

- A message seen on a student's sweatshirt..." I love mankind; its people I can't stand."
- A message from I **John 3:11**..." This is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. **Galatians 5:6 NASB**

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- Loving people isn't just a habit that God picked up over the ages...Love is the very essence of His being, His nature...and He has made us partakers of the divine nature...
- The Holy Spirit in us is always prone to love.
- It is God's nature to love without any 'self-interest.' God so loved the world that He gave His only son, and He just keeps giving and giving and giving...
- To paraphrase the 'Prophet Dyson!'- That's what love do!
- Jesus is the source of this love, and He is always available.

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. **John 5:24 NASB**

We know that we have passed over out of death into Life by the fact that we love the brethren (our fellow Christians). He who does not love abides (remains, is held and kept continually) in [spiritual] death. **I John 3:14**

- When we do what we read in **v14-18**, we can truly see that we are born of the truth, and we can quiet and reassure our hearts in His presence.
- If our heart condemns us...blaming us, laying a charge against us, passing that judgement on us, we can persuade our hearts that the truth is, we are children of God in spite of which our heart is still condemning us about.
- God is greater than our heart and He knows everything. (See **v20**)
- "Lord, cure me of my intermittent piety and make me thoroughly Christian." – **John Wesley**

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the requirement

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of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **Romans 8:1-4 NASB**

- Self-condemnation and/or the condemnation of the 'accuser' are 'confidence in God killers'...we must understand and not believe the lies in these condemning 'voices.'
- When our hearts do not condemn us then the greatness of God's peace 'tranquilizes' our heart and we have an empowered confidence, a boldness in His presence and in prayer. (See v21)

⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹(for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. **Ephesians 5:8-10 NASB**

⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. **Philippians 1:9-11 NASB**

- (See v23) This is His commandment.
- Believe in the name of Jesus.
- Love one another.

All who keep His commandments [who obey His orders and follow His plan, live and continue to live, to stay and] abide in Him, and He in them. [They let Christ be a home to them and they are the home of Christ.] And by this we know *and* understand *and* have the proof that He [really] lives *and* makes His home in us: by the [Holy] Spirit Whom He has given us. **I John 3:24**

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- Abide in Him...us in Him and Him in us...This is the empowered partnership...our oneness with the Spirit of God.