

The True Profession of Faith: “Vain Profession Verses Real Profession”

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“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His Commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His Commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked” (I John 2:3-6).

[New American Standard Bible].

John, in first John chapter one presents ‘sin’ as a “moral” problem which can only be cleansed by the blood of Christ; and in chapter two, John presents ‘sin’ as a “legal” problem, which needs legal representation.

John uses the word, **know** twenty-eight times in this letter, and he uses the phrase **we know** fifteen times. This is the truth of knowing who we are in Christ. This is final reality and not ignorance.

John presents “darkness” and says it stands for: sin, hate, separation, confusion, division, and chaos. He goes on to say, that all darkness is inspired by the devil¹. The Christian man/woman who does not love his/her brother/sister **lives in darkness**. The disobedient believer is a cause of **stumbling**, and he is also a **source of stumbling to his brethren**, and will cause others to stumble. That believer **never got out of darkness**, but is still groping around in the darkness—even until now as he/she claims to follow Christ (see I John 2:9).

¹ The devil is the main title for the fallen angelic being who is the supreme enemy of God and man. Satan is his name, and the devil is what he is—the accuser or deceiver. The title “devil” appears 35 times in the NKJV. In every case it is preceded by the article “the,” indicating a title rather than a name. The term comes from a Greek word that means “a false witness” or “malicious accuser.”

The New Testament describes the devil by several names, and points out the nature of his wicked personality and the extent of his evil deeds. The devil is called: *The wicked or evil one* (Matthew 6:13; 13:19, 38; I John 2:13). *The enemy* (Matthew 13:25, 28, 39). *The murderer* (John 8:44). *The liar* (John 8:44). *The father of lies* (John 8:44). *The deceiver* (Revelation 20:10). *Beelzebub, prince of demons* (Matthew 9:34; 12:24). *Ruler of this (wicked) world* (John 12:31; 14, 30; 16:11). The devil is also called the “god” of the present age (II Corinthians 4:4). He is the ‘god’ of all the false religion, of all the godliness, of all the wickedness, of all the evil in this world.

The devil is strong, but Christians are stronger through the risen, and living Christ (Ephesians 6:11). The devil tempts but God provides a way of escape (I Cor. 10:13); the devil takes advantage of people (II Cor. 2:11), but he will flee if resisted (James 4:7).

At Calvary, The living God dealt a death blow to this evil world ruler – the devil. It is only a matter of time before God brings the final victory at the end of time (I John 3:8; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7).

John goes on to present “light” and “love” as rooted in the nature and character of God (I John 1:5; 4:8). John lays down “light” and “love” as tests of being alive or dead. Walking in the light and loving the brethren are **tests of new spiritual life in The Lord**. If I love others as myself, then, I will not stumble, nor will I be a source of stumbling to others.

There are **three pillars** on which our fellowship with God is firmly planted by the apostle John.

- (i) Moral purity – because “God is light” (I John 1:5)².
- (ii) Love – because “God is love” (I John 4:8 and 16).
- (iii) The Incarnation of Christ. The acceptance of the divinity of Christ – because He is the Son of God (I John 1:1-5).

The reason why John is writing is stated in I John 2:21, where he says to the brethren, “you know the truth.” The reason why Christians know The Truth is because the love of God leads them to place a high value on others, and love leads them to highly value themselves also.

Summary:

After conversion, the corresponding inner life must have Christ as the object and affection of the eternal vision. The inner life must be rooted in sincere fidelity and love for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and love for Truth. If there is no love for God, then, there is love for the world, and the lust of the flesh.

After conversion to Christ, the **heart and the mind are transformed** by God’s grace and God’s love. The **rebellious, disobedient, stubborn and impenitent** heart of stone is replaced and continuously replenished through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2Cor. 5:17-20

[New American Standard Bible].

²Jesus made the mega claim: “I AM The Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have The Light of life” (John 8:12). The Master went on to describe His followers with two metaphors; He calls them: **“Salt”** and **“Light”** (Matthew 5:13-16).

Why did Christ choose the metaphors of; “salt” and “light” for His followers? He chose these *two* because He wanted His followers to have an impact in the world! In describing of His followers, He is also saying, there is an implication of how His followers were to live in this world. This is also a Christian imperative!