



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 3:23-24

Abide Through Faith and Love

by Bob DeWaay
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God Commands Faith in Christ

1 John 3:23a (NASB)
This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ...

- “This is” refers back to “keep His commandments” vs. 22 (see John 6:29)
- The “name” signifies all the Bible says about His person and work
- Faith in Christ has objective content
- He is the Son and the Messiah

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God Commands Mutual Love

1 John 3:23b (NASB)
...and love one another, just as He commanded us.

- John still comments on “not as Cain” 1Jn 3:12
- Jesus commanded mutual love (John 15:12)
- This command to love must be defined by valid faith in Christ, not every loving person is saved
- True saving faith is expressed in Christian love
- Therefore faith and love are both commanded by God

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Mutual Abiding With Christ

1John 3:24 (NASB)

The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- Those who believe and love abide in Christ
- Those who abide are Spirit indwelt
- We believe in Christ and love one another
- The statement “by the Spirit” will be clarified in the next section about discerning spirits

Implications and Applications

- God commands belief in Christ
- Without a true doctrine of Christ our faith is not valid
- Valid faith is expressed through genuine love
- Abiding in Christ expresses saving faith

We Must Believe in Christ

John 14:1 (NASB)

Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

Mark 1:15 (NASB)

...and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

We Must Believe the True Christ

Acts 4:12 (NASB)

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

- Peter was Spirit-filled (vs. 8) and preached Christ
- Peter preached the crucifixion and resurrection as part of “the name” (vs. 10)
- Peter cited scripture (Psalm 118:22)
- “must” is *dei* which means by divine necessity in Luke/Acts

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Valid Faith Expressed by Genuine Love

Ephesians 1:15, 16 (NASB)

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

- Paul sees faith in Christ coupled with love for His flock as reason to rejoice (God is at work)
- Those who believe in Christ not only love Christ, they love other believers who are their brothers and sisters in the faith

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Abiding in Christ Expresses Saving Faith

2John 1:9 (NASB)

Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

- We have no where else to go (John 6:68, 69)
- The teaching of Christ is doctrine and it is essential to “stay put” in the truth
- We cannot reject the truth and know God

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