

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John 4:7&8**

### Chapter 17- Being Born of God

#### 176. Being Born of God- Part 4

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WAOY Friday- Monday 03/28-31/08

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "Being Born of God". So let's read **1John 4:7&8** again together:

**7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

**8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over the kind of selfless, giving and not expecting anything in return love that John was talking about here and today I want to look closely at verse 8- so let's read that verse again together:

**The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

Now John ends this two verse discussion with a bold statement- God is love. And it is very interesting that John did not say that "God loves" or that "God is loving"- but John says here that God *is* love. And since God is love- John makes the argument that certain things should be true about those who belong to God or those who have been born of God.

And those things are that we should love God and that we should also love those who love God. Now John says that God is love with the same matter-of-factness that he told us earlier that God is light. In **1John 1:5**- John said:

**This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.**

And in his Gospel account- in **John 4:24**- the Apostle also informs us that God is a spirit. So, we can see that the Holy Spirit revealed to John some of the characteristics of the Father in that God is love; God is light and God is a spirit.

So in all three cases- the Apostle is not just informing us of some interesting facts about God- but he is saying that since these things are true about God- then therefore we should behave in a certain manner.

For example- John said earlier in **1John 1** that since it is true that God is light- verse 6 says:

**If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;**

And in his Gospel account John quotes Jesus as telling the woman at the well in **John 4:23** that since God is a Spirit- then therefore-

**... the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth ...**

And now here in **1John 4:8**- the Apostle is telling us that since it is true that God is love- therefore we who are born of God must also love God and love each other.

This goes back to a very important principle surrounding God. God Almighty did not choose to reveal Himself to mankind simply to amaze him. No, God chose to reveal Himself to Man precisely so that Man would feel the weight and the impact of that Divine Revelation to the point that man would sense and understand what God- His Creator *requires* of Him.

You see part of the definition of what it means to be Lord is that a Lord has the right to expect certain things from those whom He “lords” over and He has the right and the prerogative to limit the behavior of those over whom He is Lord.

And part of what it means to be a servant or better put a slave is to understand all that the Master desires and to do everything within our power to see to it that the wishes of the Master are carried out.

You see, dear friend, the joy of the Master is in lording over His slaves and the joy of the slaves is in fulfilling the desires of their Master.

But during my lifetime- the leaders of the Church have misrepresented the relationship that saved people have with their Lord. We have come to believe that there exists some sort of codependency going on whereby God is as dependent upon us as we are to Him and that is simply not true. Another false portrayal has believers in some kind of dual relationship whereby God sort of consults with us as to what we think needs to be done and God is sort of like a coach simply teaching us how to do what should be done.

But the actual relationship between us and Jesus that is described in Scripture is far different from those false portrayals. For example, read with me **1Corinthians 6:20**:

**For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**

Now the only human beings who are bought with a price are slaves and so here Paul is comparing our relationship to Jesus Christ with the relationship that a slave has with his Master. And notice that because this slave/Master relationship exists between us and Jesus- Paul is teaching here that as the Master- Jesus has ownership rights over both our bodies and our spirit's- precisely because He has bought and paid for them. And because this is true- our reasonable duty; our normal activity; our proper response to being a slave to Jesus Christ is to glorify God in our body and in our spirit. How different this sounds from what we so often hear preached today.

And just in case that you might think that this was Paul just being a little overly descriptive here- let's read what the Apostle James said by reading **James 1:1** which says:

**James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.**

Now this man was the half- brother of Jesus Christ. Mary, the mother of Jesus was also James' mother and he had every opportunity here to put forth his pedigree and to brag about his own personal family connection with the Lord. But he didn't do that, did he? No, James said here that he was a "servant of God" and a "servant of the Lord Jesus Christ". Now the word that was translated here into English as "servant": is the Greek word, *doulos*. And this is the very same word

that Paul used in **Romans 1:1**; **1Corinthians 7:21&22**; **Galatians 1:10**; **Galatians 4:1** and **Galatians 4:7**; it is the very same word that Paul used in **Philippians 2:7** and in **Colossians 4:12**; **2Timothy 2:24**; and **Titus 1:1**; and Paul used this word twice in **Philemon 16**. Peter, Jude, and the writer of Hebrews used this word one time each. Dr. Luke used this word 21 different times; Matthew used it 17 times; Mark used it 4 times; and John used this very same word 8 times.

And in every case where this word, *doulos* is used to describe the relationship that saved people have with Jesus Christ- this word is always best translated as “slave.”

And the reason that this is important is that the slave/Master relationship that is so apparent in the New Testament has been lost to our modern mentality. We do not view ourselves as slaves today. We do not speak like slaves. We do not think like slaves and yet the slave mentality is the mentality of the born again believer in Scripture. So our mentality and our thinking processes and our language is foreign to the New Testament and we are not in alignment with the New Testament and the tragic result is that when a person reads here about John talking about the majestic and marvelous love of God- because our minds are not in alignment with this slave/Master relationship- all kinds of silly, superficial, and meaningless comparisons and analogies are made which do not assist us in our walk with God and our development of a mind that is not conformed to this present evil world.

And then if we are not real careful- unbiblical and even anti-biblical ideas and concepts begin to creep in and develop from these superficial and unspiritual analogies which are not only *not* helpful- but can actually hurt our walk with God.

So as we approach this great love of God that John is talking about here- we must do so not as God’s equal- but as slave of Jesus Christ who has been bought and paid for by Jesus and who belongs to Jesus and who does not belong to himself and who has absolutely no rights whatsoever and who has no say so over what the Master wants and what the Master demands of us and what the Master expects out of us. We must learn to think like slaves; walk like slaves and talk like slaves so that when we read about God’s wonderful love- this love is so amazing and so glorious and so powerful that it transcends all other loves.

You see, dear friends, the love of God is nothing like any other love that we experience here on earth. To try to compare the love of God to a boyfriend or girlfriend and the puppy love that they have or to even compare God's love with the infatuation of serious human love is to always cheapen God's Love. Read with me a very familiar passage in **John 3:16**

**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**

Look at what John says here. God so loved. God loved to such a great extent and to such an infinite extreme that God did something precisely *because* of that love. What did God do because of His love? Did He sing a song? No. Did He write a poem? No. Did He send flowers? No. What did God do because He loved? The Bible says that God gave. Well, what did God give? He gave the best that He had.

You see many times, we give – but most of the time when *we* give- we give what we don't want; or what is left; or we give the excess of the abundance that we have. For example- we may give someone a chest of drawers. And that is nice- but *why* did we give that piece of furniture? Probably because we didn't want it or because we weren't using it, right? I mean it is nice that we gave- but in reality- we gave because we didn't need it. We may give a chair that only has three legs; a hat that is old; or a coat that is too small.

We may write a check to some cause- but we do so because we first make sure that what we want and what we have need of is covered first- and then we write that check. And most everyone gives like this. So, we as human beings give our junk away; we give what we don't want and can't use; we give what is broken or run down or that is too small or that is torn, and we give the remainder of the abundance of what God has blessed us with.

But God doesn't give like that. And the *reason* that God doesn't give the way that we give is because God doesn't love like we love. God's love is so much higher than our love; it is so far superior to our love and so His giving is higher and superior to ours. You see, God gave the best. God gave what was priceless. God gave the very thing that He wanted and that He loved the most and the commodity that meant the most to Him and the very Object of His affection and desire. John says that

because God loved- God gave and God gave what God loved the most. You see, God gave Jesus and He gave Jesus to people who for the most part didn't want Him and who really didn't appreciate or understand Him and He gave to those who didn't acknowledge that this Gift of Jesus was priceless and the single most valuable gift in all of the universe.

And when God gave Jesus to the earth- He gave Him to die- to take upon Himself the sins of the whole world so that you and I could be forgiven and go to Heaven forever.

You see, dear friends, God is holy and we are not. And God is right and just to judge us for our sins and to punish us eternally for our sins. Our dilemma about sin is so great that it is like the wrath of God is coming down on us like a freight train at 300 miles an hour and we are chained to the railroad tracks. God's love is manifested to us in that through Jesus and only through Jesus Christ- we can escape God's wrath and be forgiven and go to Heaven forever. That is love because God doesn't have to do anything about our dilemma. He could leave us just like we are- but God has chosen to extend Mercy and Grace to us- who do not deserve it. That is love- so come to Jesus today and experience this great love.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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