

3 John 9-13 Who's On First?

1.The One Loving to Be First 9, 10

A. An Important Communication

B. The One Loving to Be First

“So the last will be first, and the first last.” Matthew 20:16 ESV

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” -Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” Proverbs 3:5-8 ESV

“Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” -Proverbs 26:12 ESV

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.” -Romans 12:16 ESV

“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.” -2 Timothy 3:1-5 ESV

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” -Galatians 5:22-26 ESV

“As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” James 4:16-17 ESV

C. Does not Acknowledge Our Authority

“Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” -John 8:34-59 ESV

D. Malicious Gossip

“unloving, irreconcilable, **malicious gossips**, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,” -2 Timothy 3:3 NASB1995

E. Anti-Hospitality

“Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.” -3 John 1:8 ESV

2. Do Not Imitate Evil 11

A. Who do you imitate?

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” -Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

B. The Division is made clear

Whoever does good is from God. Who defines “good”? That is God. It is his Word

“And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.” -Luke 18:18-19 ESV

3. The Good Testimony 12

A. Demetrius

“Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.”

3 John 1:5-6 ESV

B. You Know Our Testimony is True

*When the music fades into the past,
When the days of life are through,
What will be remembered of where I've come?
When all is said and done?*

*Will they say I loved my family?
That I was a faithful friend?
That I lived to tell of God's own son?
When all is said and done.*

*Of how I longed to see the hour,
When I would hear that trumpet sound.
So I could rise and see my Savior's face,
And see him smile,
And say 'Well done.'*

You can forget my name

And the songs I've sung,

Every line and every tune.

But remember the truth of Jesus' love,

When all is said and done

-Geoff Moore 1993

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” -Matthew 6:33 ESV

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” -Philippians 2:9-11 ESV

Reflection: Is there something you need to lay down this morning to truly seek the Kingdom of God first in life?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Philippians 2:3-4. Are there ways that you see others' interest being put before those of your own? How do you measure this?

Tuesday: Proverbs 3:5-8. What safeguards are in your life to be sure you are not becoming “wise in your own eyes”?

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 3:1-5. The temptation with these verses is to look at them working themselves out in the world around us. Work through each of them and allow the Lord to examine you to be sure they are not creeping into your life.

Thursday: John 8:34-59. The religious authorities of Jesus' day were so convinced that they were correct that they missed God in the flesh in front of them. Is there anything you see from their failures that we must be careful of today to be sure not to fall into the same traps?

Friday: Matthew 6:33. Is there anything you are seeking more than God's Kingdom today?

Saturday: Philippians 2:9-11. Contemplate today this reality compared to the attitudes of so many towards Jesus Christ. How does this reality give you hope?