

I Am Resolved To Be Like Christ I Jn. 1:1-4

Thesis: To encourage us to become more like Christ.

Introduction:

- A. The purpose of I John is to declare to us that we can have fellowship with Christ.
 - 1. This fellowship comes only when we become like Christ.
 - 2. **I Jn. 1:1-4** - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—{2} the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—{3} that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. {4} And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- B. Today, we will notice how we can be like Christ so that we can have this fellowship with Him and the Father.

I. To be like Christ means that we do not dwell in sin (3:4-9).

- A. We know that each of us commit sin from time to time.
 - 1. John reminds us that we have sinned.
 - a. **I Jn. 1:8-10** - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. {9} If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. {10} If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
 - b. **I Jn. 2:15-17** (John is clear that there is sin in the world) - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - c. Because of this sin, we are warned that we should not be like the world.
 - 2. The rest of the Bible is very clear that we have committed sin.
 - a. **Rom. 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
 - b. **Gal. 3:22a** - But the Scripture has confined all under sin.
 - 3. Obviously, the difference between us and Christ is that He did not commit any sin, much less dwell in it.

- a. **Heb. 4:15** - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
 - b. **I Pet. 2:22** (Quote from **Is. 53:9**) - “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”;
 - c. **I Jn. 3:5b** - In Him there is no sin.
4. While Jesus committed no sin, it is no secret that we do commit sin.

B. However, if we are going to be like Christ, we cannot live in sin.

- 1. John tells us that we cannot dwell in sin.
 - a. **I Jn. 3:4-9** - Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. {5} And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. {6} Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. {7} Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. {8} He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.
 - b. **I Jn. 5:18** - We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.
- 2. Obviously, because John has talked about the fact that we do commit sin, he is not saying that a Christian never sins.
 - a. He is simply saying that we do not dwell in sin.
 - b. That is, we do not continue to live our lives as we did before we became a Christian.
 - c. Our life is to be holy.

II. To be like Christ means that we learn to love others.

A. God has always expected His people to love one another.

- 1. John tells us that we are to love one another.
 - a. **I Jn. 3:10-15** - In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. {11} For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, {12} not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. {13} Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. {14} We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. {15} Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- b. **I Jn. 4:20-21** - If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? {21} And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.
- 2. God has always intended for His people to love others.
 - a. Jesus commands us to love others.
 - 1) **Jn. 13:35** - By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
 - 2) **Mt. 22:39** (Jesus quoting from **Lev. 19:18**) - "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"
 - b. Throughout the rest of the Bible, we are commanded to love one another.
 - 1) Paul sums it up the best.
 - 2) **Rom. 13:8-10** - Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. {9} For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." {10} Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
- 3. Loving others means that we will do things for them.
 - a. **I Jn. 3:17-18** - But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
 - b. In order for us to love others, we must do good to them.

B. We learn to love others by following the example of God's love for us.

- 1. John tells us of the love that God has for us.
 - a. **I Jn. 3:16** - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
 - b. **I Jn. 4:17-19** - Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. {18} There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. {19} We love Him because He first loved us.
- 2. Because God loved us enough to give His only Son on the cross, we should love one another.

C. John ties in the love that we should have for others and the love that God has for us (4:7-11).

- 1. **I Jn. 4:7-11** - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} He who does

not love does not know God, for God is love. {9} In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. {10} In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. {11} Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

2. Because of the love that God has for us, we should love one another.
3. In order to be like Christ, we must learn to love.

III. To be like Christ means that we obey God.

A. Being obedient to God means that we keep His commandments.

1. John tells us to keep the commandments of God.
 - a. **I Jn. 2:3-6** - Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. {4} He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. {6} He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
 - b. **I Jn. 5:2-3** - By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. {3} For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
2. Jesus tells us that He expects us to keep His commandments.
 - a. **Jn. 14:15** - If you love Me, keep My commandments.
 - b. **Jn. 14:23** - Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

B. When we keep His commandments, we have fellowship with Him.

1. Remember: the purpose of this book is to tell us that we can have fellowship with Christ.
 - a. **I Jn. 1:3** - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 - b. The way to obtain this fellowship is through obeying His commands.
 - 1) **I Jn. 1:6-7** - If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. {7} But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - 2) **I Jn. 3:24** - Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
2. It is through this fellowship that we have our sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life.

Conclusion:

- A. If we are like Christ, God has promised to give us eternal life.
1. I Jn. 2:25 - And this is the promise that He has promised us-- eternal life.
 2. I Jn. 2:28-3:3 - And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. {29} If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. {1} Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. {2} Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. {3} And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
- B. Today, do you have that fellowship with Christ and the eternal life that God has promised to give you?
1. It is a fellowship and eternity that comes only through obedience to His word.
 2. Have you followed the commands of Christ in order to obtain this fellowship and salvation?