

Sermon ~ Sunday, October 25, 2020 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: I John 4: 20

KJV – “If a man say, I love **GOD**, and hateth his brother he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love **GOD** whom he hath not seen?”

Title: Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

Many can recall, March 3, 1991, the plaintive call of Rodney King, the Black man, whose vicious beating by members of the Los Angeles, California police department was caught on video. On April 1992 after the police officers was acquitted, it triggered riots in South Central, Los Angeles, resulting with more than 50 people killed; 2,000 injured and 9, 500 arrested for rioting, looting and arson; and 1 billion dollars in property damage. *Three days* after the riots started, Mr. King made a public appearance, making this plea “People, I just want to say, can't we all get along? Can't we all get along?”

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

Have you read, do you recall, reading the headline's new, of the Jerusalem Enterprise, in the year 36 A.D. Caiaphas, the High Priest, said to the Sanhedrin Council, “It is better that **JESUS** die, than to have our whole Nation perish! It is better to kill one innocent man than to lose our Nation. If we do not destroy **JESUS**, the Romans will destroy us,” (John 11: 50) By **JESUS'** death, he thought, (not HIS burial and resurrection) the Jews would be saved from the Romans. This was his language, thoughts and motives; the same as in, Mr. King's day and even our present day?

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

An answer to this question is given in the Apostle John's first Epistle to the **CHRISTIANS**. In the *context* of our text (I John 4: 20) the *sage*, repeats himself, restating the themes of *Light, Love and Truth*... **GOD is LIGHT** (I John 1: 5—*Light* stands for *holiness* and *righteousness*. *Darkness* stands for *sin* and *evil*; also, I John 2: 10—Whoever loves his brother lives in the light). In I John 4: 8, John says, “...**GOD is LOVE**.” In verse 7, chapter 4, he says, “...everyone who loves has been born of **GOD** and knows **GOD**.” In I John 3: 9, he says, “No one who is born of **GOD** will continue in *sin*... in verse 10, “In this the children of **GOD** are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of **GOD**, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

GOD is TRUTH... I John 5: 20, “And we know (“we know” is mention in verses 2, 15, 18, 19, speaking of the **CHRISTIAN**) that **The SON of GOD** is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know **HIM** that is **TRUE**, and we are *in HIM* that is **TRUE**, *even* in **HIS SON JESUS CHRIST**.” [Faith *in CHRIST* is not blind Faith or ignorant Faith. It is **The TRUTH** (John 14: 6).

And we can know **CHRIST, WHO is The TRUE, Living SON of GOD!**

Others verses are I John 5: 6; 3: 18]

I John chapter 4 states that “if a person is born of **GOD**, he will prove it by his or her Love— “...and every one that loveth is born of **GOD**...” (I John 4: 7) This is the great news of **The Gospel**... no other Faith teaches *this TRUTH*. The others know about GOD. They know that **GOD is The Creator**, that **HE is a SPIRIT**, that **HE is powerful**. But they do not know that **GOD is LOVE**.

Why? Because in order to know **LOVE**, one has to first *experience* **LOVE**. In order to know **GOD**, one has to first *experience* **GOD**—that is, one has to *meet* **HIM** *personally*. One has to *draw near* to **HIM**. One *must* be able to *call* **HIM** *our* **FATHER**. *Receive* **GOD'S LOVE**, *share it with others*. *True LOVE is spiritual*; it comes not from man, but *from* **GOD**.

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

*We all must have a New Nature...

I John 4 begins with a warning about “the *false spirits* in the world.” Many who are *teaching, preaching* and *prophesying* through various *spirits*. How can a believer know when a *preacher* is *from* **GOD** or from the Devil? After all, Satan is an imitator! John states that the *false spirits* will not confess that **JESUS is The CHRIST!** The cults today will not confess *The Deity of CHRIST* and make **HIM** a *mere man* or an *inspired teacher*. But the **CHRISTian** has **The SPIRIT** *within*, the New Nature; and this give them *overcoming power*.

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

*We all must believe CHRIST Died for us...

The world does not really believe that **GOD is LOVE**. They look at the awful ravages of *sin* in the world and say, “How can a **GOD of LOVE** permit these things to happen?” But men need never doubt **GOD'S LOVE**: **HE** *proved* that on **The CROSS of Calvary!** The Bible declares that **CHRIST** *died* that we might have life; that we might live *through* **HIM** (I John 4: 9), *for* **HIM** (2 Corinthians 5: 15), and *with* **HIM** (I Thessalonians 5: 9: 10). The logic is clear: “If **GOD** so loved us, we ought also to love one another!” **The Cross** is a *plus* sign (+): it *reconciles* men to **GOD** and men to one another!!! If two **CHRISTians** do not love one another, they have gotten away from **The Cross!**

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

*Question, Is The SPIRIT Witnessing to us...

Alone, men cannot see **GOD**, but they can see **GOD'S children** revealing **HIM** in their *Love/Lives*. This Love is not something that we work up; it *is* **The Work of The SPIRIT** *within* (Roman 5: 5). **GOD'S LOVE** flows from us as we yield to **The SPIRIT**. **CHRISTians** do not Love each other because of our good qualities, but in spite of our bad qualities! As we abide *in* **HIS LOVE**, we have no problems loving others.

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

*I know, but do you know, CHRIST is Coming for us?

CHRISTians who *obey* **GOD** have boldness with **GOD** now— “Beloved, if our heart condemns us, **GOD** *is* greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of **HIM**, because we keep **HIS** commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in **HIS** sight.” And **CHRISTians** who love one another will have confidence when **CHRIST** returns.

We need not fear the Day of Judgment, because our witness of Love proves that we are **HIS children** and that we will never face Judgment (4: 17) ... and notice the end of verse 17, “...as **HE** *is* (now in Heaven), so are we (now on earth.) **HE** *is* in heaven representing us before **The FATHER**, and we are on earth representing **HIM** before *sinful* men.

Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?

*We all don't know, GOD LOVES Us!

"We love **HIM**, because **HE** first loved us." (I John 4: 19) *Sinners* know little about love; **GOD** had to show it to us all on **The Cross** (Romans 5: 8) and plant it in our hearts (Romans 5: 5).

Note, I John 4: 10, "Herein is love, not that we loved **GOD**, but that **HE** loved us, and sent **HIS SON** to be the propitiation for our sins." Romans 3: 11 says, "There is none that seeketh after **GOD**." **GOD** came seeking man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3: 9) and **CHRIST** is seeking men today (Luke 19: 10) ...

No one can say, they Love **GOD** while hating other **CHRISTians**! How can we Love **GOD** up in Heaven when we do not Love men here on earth? John uses the terms "*brethren*" or "*brother*" seventeen times in his letter... **CHRISTians** are expected to love each other because they have experienced **The LOVE of GOD** in their own hearts.

For **GOD** so loved the world, that **HE** gave **HIS** only begotten **SON**;
The SON gave **HIS Life** for me, when **HE** died on **Calvary**!

There is *no greater LOVE, no LOVE nowhere, no greater LOVE,*
than a man would lay down **HIS Life** for a friend.

No LOVE nowhere, I've searched all over,
there is *no greater LOVE, there is no greater LOVE,*
there is *no greater LOVE, no greater LOVE!*

No greater LOVE, No greater LOVE!
No greater LOVE, No greater LOVE!

JESUS went to **Calvary**, to save a wrench like you and me
That's LOVE! That's LOVE!

They hung **HIM** high, they stretched **HIM** wide, **HE** hung **HIS** head. And then **HE** died,
That's LOVE! That's LOVE!

That's not how the story ends,
three days later, three days later, three days later,
HE rose again, **HE** rose again, **HE ROSE AGAIN!**
That's LOVE! That's LOVE! That's LOVE! That's LOVE!
(GWMA Mass Choir—No Greater Love)

To answer this question, **Why Can't We All Just Get Alone?** Is to have **The LOVE of GOD**, in your heart? Received **HIM** today! And, you will realize, **HE** already received you! *That's LOVE!*

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