

JESUS DESCRIBES THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 2:18-25**. From Roy H. Enoch (05-01-1994).
- B. Jesus is the true pattern for every person's life (Mt. 16:24; Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:21).
 - 1. The church is the spiritual body of X and we should do and say only what Jesus would.
 - 2. Jesus "did no sin" (1Pet. 2:22), but, He was..."in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).
 - 3. See 2 Cor. 5:21.
 - 4. Only He could ask, "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (Jn. 8:46).
 - 5. He is the only perfect pattern or example for our lives.
- C. This pattern and example is best summed up with the word LOVE.
 - 1. Not the "love" of the world, but the strong, faithful, unselfish service to God.
 - 2. This lesson: Some ways in which the love of X is a pattern for our lives.

I. **THE LOVE OF X IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE SERVICE HE RENDERED.**

- A. Above all things He was a SERVANT, especially to the Father (Isa. 52:13).
 - 1. God describes Him as His Servant, His righteous Servant (Isa. 53:11).
 - 2. At the age of 12, Jesus understood that He "...must be about His Father's business" (Lk. 2:49).
 - 3. At Jacob's well, He told the disciples of His food (Jn. 4:34).
 - 4. Psalm 40:6-8 is quoted in Heb. 10:5-9.
- B. Just as we cannot separate the idea of SERVING and OBEYING God in the life of X, neither can we in our lives.
 - 1. If we are "Xian" or "X-like," we also will SERVE and OBEY God like X did.
 - 2. Paul links serving and obedience as we see in the life of X (Rom. 6:16).
 - 3. X's obedience culminated at the cross (Phil. 2:7-8).
 - 4. Jesus gave this same standard for Xians (Rev. 2:10).
 - 5. X described His obedience to the Father (Jn. 8:55).
 - 6. If we KNOW HIM, we will KEEP HIS WORD also.
 - 7. This is the essence of true love (Jn. 14:15; 1Jn. 5:3).
- C. But Jesus not only loved God enough to serve Him, but He loved men enough to give Himself for them (Mt. 20:28).
 - 1. He was explaining true greatness to the apostles who were arguing over who was the greatest (Mt. 20:25-27).
 - a. True greatness is going the second mile (Mt. 5:41).
 - b. It is giving to the poor and serving them.
 - c. It is treating others as we would wish to be treated.
 - 2. The devil has so much control over the hearts of many in the church that serving others is forgotten.
 - a. They do not have time. They work two jobs for more money for things they want, and recreation and pleasure that they like. They have no time for others.
 - b. Churches that claim a high percentage of members that are "actively involved" sometimes have a half million dollar gymnasium and athletic facility, and most of the "member involvement" is in practice and participation in the church's ball teams rather than in the Lord's work.
 - c. "But what shall it profit a church if it should gain 100% participation in entertainment, but lose its own God-given aim in the process?"
 - 4. Elders and teachers should not have to beg Xians to study, visit, try to convert others, give generously, attend gospel meetings and even to assemble regularly.
 - a. True servants of God do not have to be begged.

- b. The unconverted are not motivated by begging, bribing or anything else.
- 5. If we are to have a right to the name "Xian," we are going to have to restore "service" to our vocabularies and to our way of life, as X commands.

II. The love of X was identified by what He hated.

- A. Some seem to believe that we should love everyone and every way.
 - 1. We are to love all men, and do good for them, but we cannot condone evil speaking or behavior.
 - 2. We must learn to love good and oppose evil.
- B. The love commanded in the scriptures includes hating what is evil.
 - 1. Psa. 97:10
 - 2. Mt. 6:24
 - 3. Prov. 6:16-19
 - a. If God hates these, we should also.
 - b. We cannot really love good w/out hating evil.
 - c. A Doctor who loves his patients will hate diseases that kill them.
- C. One example will illustrate the kind of things that Jesus hates.
 - 1. Our Lord loved the truth, and urged that we seek it.
 - a. John 1:14
 - b. He identified the truth as His word which makes men free. John 8:31-32 31
 - 2. In His love for truth, he warned against error and falsehood.
 - a. Mt. 7:15; 16:6.
 - c. He condemned the religious traditions of the Jews by showing their true worth. Mt. 15:6,9,14
- D. If our Lord hated error can we follow Him and do less?
 - 1. We must first accept the teaching of X that there is truth and there is error: And we can learn the difference.
 - 2. The worldly religious teachers say that we cannot know truth and therefore that we should not try to condemn error.
 - 3. Some even claim that it is "unloving" to condemn error.
 - 4. But Jesus knew that sin will kill us every time, and He opposed it to try to save those who were dying.

III. THE LOVE OF JESUS SHOWED CONCERN FOR THE LOST.

- A. He knew that sin was a reality.
 - 1. He knew the consequence of sin.
 - 2. He left heaven that we might have a remedy for sin.
 - 3. It requires turning from the domination of sin.
 - 4. We have to trust Him for the remedy--we cannot find it by ourselves.
- B. We cannot be serious about serving X, and not be serious about trying to reach the lost.

Conclusion

- A. Jesus loved the Father enough to do His will rather than please Himself.
- B. He served others rather than Himself.
- D. He hated the sin that destroys men's souls.
- E. He loved the sinner and tried to reach him.
- F. We should go and do likewise.