

The Mystery of Righteousness

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 3:6-7.

B. Every Christian must be a revolutionary because God is a revolutionary.

C. God is determined to correct unjust social situations.

II. The underlying problem is a civil war in the heart of every man.

III. God has done the only thing that can correct this.

A. Man is lawless.

B. Love fulfills the law.

1. Righteousness is love behaving.
2. Love is the very essence of God.
3. This love is also light that dispels darkness.

IV. How one lays hold of the gift of love.

A. The secret is Christ in a person.

1. Christ gives the believer His character.
2. John says that the believer does not sin nor cannot sin because he is born of God, but he also says that anyone who says he does not sin is a liar.
3. Although the believer sins, he does not continue in sin.

B. The secret to staying from sin is abiding in Christ.

1. This makes a union with Christ that result in the impartation of Jesus' life and love through the new birth possible.
2. Christ in the believer is what frees him from the power of sin.

C. What marks the abiding relationship. (John 15)

1. Abounding fruit—that is the fruit of the Spirit.
2. Effectual prayer.

3. Keeping from lawlessness.

D. Abiding in Christ is abiding in His love through obedience.

1. The difference for the Christian is that obedience brings joy.

2. Every act of renunciation results in an accompanying act of glorification and rejoicing.

E. Failing to show Christ to an increasing degree demonstrates that one is not a Christian.

Application questions:

1. What is the relationship between love and obedience?

2. What are the marks of the believer? What does it mean to be without sin according to John?

3. What witness can you give to the power of Christ to overcome temptation in your life or in someone else's?
