Contradictory Christianity

Ken Chapman · 1 John 1:6–2:9

INTRODUCTION

- The New Testament is consistent in this theme that it is not who or what we claim to be that truly matters.
- But those claims are worse than meaningless if they're contradicted by our lives.
- You're a Christian. You've been baptized. Now live like it, he says.

1 If We Say We Have Fellowship With Him

1 John 1:6

- If we say we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- The idea of walking is the idea of living, that this is a consistent pattern of life.
- Christianity is not just some title that we wear, not just some name, not just some club that we're joined, but it is a lifestyle. It changes who we are.
- If it has not changed you, then John would say you lie, and you do not practice the truth.

2 If We Say We Have No Sin

1 John 1:8; 1 John 1:10

- If we say we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
- We all need to recognize the basis of what should be our humility. That we have sinned.
- We need an advocate with the Father. We need a propitiation, one who would appease the wrath of God, who would be our place of mercy.

3 He Who Says, I Know Him

1 John 2:4

- He who says, I know him, and does not keep his commandments, is a liar. And the truth is not in him.
- It's not the idea of the understanding or the memorization of certain facts, but it's the idea of an intimacy.
- To have a relationship with God inherently involves our obedience to him.
- Everybody wants a Savior, but nobody wants a Lord. Save me from my sins, Jesus. But please don't tell me what to do. It's not a biblical concept.

4 He Who Says He Abides in Him

1 John 2:6

- He who says he abides in him ought himself also to walk just as he walked.
- When you see those words abide, live, and dwell, they speak of permanency, not of some temporary relationship.

- If we're living in him, if we're walking with him, then we're going to be influenced by him.
- We talk the way we talk and use the words that we use because people around us talk that way.
- And we will walk as he walked, and talk as he talked. Because we're with him.

5 In the Light and Hates His Brother

1 John 2:9

- He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in darkness until now.
- If someone says, I love God and hates his brother, he's a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?
- Our brother, our fellow man, has been made in the image of God.
- If you hate, mistreat, curse or murder, you're doing so against the very image of God.
- If we're in the light, if we love God, it's going to affect everything that we do. Everything that we say.

THE CHALLENGE

I challenge you this week to look into the mirror of God's word and say, Am I a liar? Or am I living the life that reflects that I'm walking in the light?

MY NOTES