

Abide In Him

1 John 2:28-29



Rock Hill Baptist Church

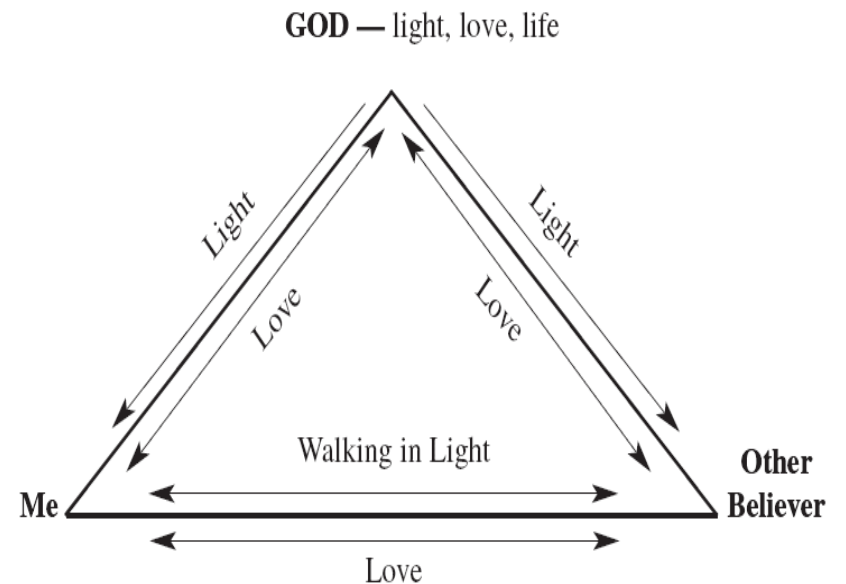
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FOCAL 1 John 2:28-29 ^{KJV1} "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. {29} If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."

What is the believer's *proof of life*? How do I know that I am saved? Again, let's look at the diagram that Bible teacher **J. Vernon McGee** gave us:



PROOF OF LIFE

The believer is a person who is *saved by the Grace of God* and, because of that salvation, is in a *state of love* with both God and his fellow believers. Believers walk both (1) in the Light that is Christ and (2) with the Light

1 KJV, NIV, HCSB: King James Version, New International Version, Holman Christian Standard Versions respectively are used throughout this study

that is Christ. Let's look at both of these points.

1. Believers Walk In The Light That Is Christ

FOCAL 1 John 2:28 ^{KJV} "And now, **little children**², abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. "

The Apostle calls us *little children*. This appears to be the same title that he gave us in **verse 18** when he wrote:

1 John 2:18 ^{KJV} "**Little children**, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

but it's not. In verse 18 the Apostle uses the word *paidion*³ which means *small infant* whereas this word, *teknion* means *an infant who is a member of the family*. Both words refer to small children or infants, but *teknion* emphasizes the *kinship* between the child and its parent. For instance, if you are working in our Church's Nursery watching over the little children who are there, we would say that you are watching over *paidion*. They are all little children. But if one of those children in the nursery was

2 G5040 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries) *τεκνίον*, *teknion*, *tek-nee'-on*, Diminutive of G5043; an *infant*, that is, (plural figurative) *darlings* (Christian converts): - little children.

3 G3813 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), *παιδίον*, *paidion*, pronounced *pahee-dee'-on*, Neuter diminutive of G3816; a *childling* (of either sex), that is, (properly) an infant, or (by extension) a half grown *boy* or girl; figuratively an *immature* Christian: - (little, young) child, damsel.

a member of your immediate family *by birth* - a son or a daughter - then the infant would be called *teknion*. a young child of *your* family. John uses this word throughout this book (see 1 John 2:1; 2:28; 3:18; 4:4; 5:21). If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior then He is also your Elder Brother.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior then we are bound to Him by the Blood. He is Lord of our lives, and we live our lives in union with Him Who died and rose again for us. We are **little children**, Beloved of God.

This word could even be translated **darling, precious heirs**, for those born in the family are heirs of salvation. The Bible tells us that:

Hebrews 1:14 ^{NIV} "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

even the angels watch over us who are the darlings of God. If you are saved you are His **little children**. You are in His Family. And you are commanded to abide in Him.

FOCAL 1 John 2:28 ^{KJV} "And now, little children⁴, **abide**⁵ **in him**; that, when he shall appear, we may

4 G5040 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries) *τεκνίον*, *teknion*, *tek-nee'-on*, Diminutive of G5043; an *infant*, that is, (plural figurative) *darlings* (Christian converts): - little children.

5 Present Active Imperative G3306 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), *μένω*, *menō*, *men'-o*, A primary verb; to *stay* (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): - abide, continue, dwell, endure,

have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. "

The believer is told to *keep on abiding or remaining in Him*, in Jesus Christ⁶.

If you are saved you are in the Family of God, and if in the Family of God then you are to **keep on abiding** in Christ your Elder Brother. What does it mean to **keep on abiding**?



To **abide in Christ** is to do what Christ said. The very *first* use of the Greek *teknion* was when Jesus said:

John 13:33-35 ^{KJV} "**Little children**², yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. {34} A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. {35} By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Just before Jesus Christ went to the Cross for His Family He called His forming Church together and gave us a **new⁷ commandment**. No one has the power to give commandments *but God* - and Jesus Christ as our Lord

be present, remain, stand, tarry (for), X thine own.

6 Robertson's Word Pictures in the Greek New Testament, "John tenderly repeats the exhortation, "keep on abiding in him."

7 G2537 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), *καινός*, *kainos*, *kahee-nos'*, Of uncertain affinity; *new* (especially in *freshness*; while G3501 is properly so with respect to *age*): - new.

God gave us a **new commandment** that we **love one another just as He loves us**. This is a weighty commandment, but one that is imperative for the Church. If you do not love one another, if you set your own thoughts and desires above that of your brother or your sister, then the world has *no witness of Christ*. I received a pleasant surprise this past Thursday. I was talking with a fellow pastor, a man that I had just recently met, and in the course of the conversation he said "I have heard so many good things about Rock Hill. I have heard that it is a blessing in that community, and everyone is talking about what God is doing there". Now let us not get puffed up as I say that, always remembering

Proverbs 11:2 ^{HCSB} "**When pride comes, disgrace follows**, but with humility comes wisdom."

but on the same hand let's recognize the truth of this dear man's words. Rock Hill *is* a blessing to the community, but it is a blessing because it is obeying the Lord's **new commandment**.

If we obey Christ's commandment to **love one another as He loves us** then this is a sacrificial love, a terrible love, a killing love, and overwhelming love.

This is a love that says "I love you whether you return that love or not". This is the same love that, *beaten and torn till He no longer looked human* He was nailed to a blood stained tree. As He hung there suffering thirst, as bitter gaul was thrust into His torn and dripping face to

mock His thirst, no curse came from His lips. The prophet Isaiah wrote of Christ,

Isaiah 50:6 ^{KJV} **"I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting."**

Oh Beloved, how terrible is the weight of the love of Christ. **If you are to abide in Christ then "I" must not be the first word in your alphabet. You need to have the same alphabet that God gave us in the New Testament, and your alphabet needs to start with Alpha and end with Omega:**

Revelation 21:6 ^{KJV} **And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

You must *strive to be exactly like Christ* in your love. This is not something that you can do in your own power, for in ourselves we would love to avenge the hurts that others have given to us. Yet the **love of Christ bears down on us from all sides**⁸. Christ not only saved us from our sins, but He *indwells us*, as it is written:

Colossians 1:27 ^{KJV} **"To whom God would make**

⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:14 ^{KJV} **For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:**

known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"

Romans 8:9 ^{KJV} **"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."**

If you are going to *keep on abiding in Christ* then you must *keep on doing what Jesus said* whether anyone else does or not! What someone else is doing is not the point.

If you are *abiding in Christ* then you must obey His Law of Love regardless.



To **abide in Christ** is to let Christ be formed in your life. The second time we see the Greek *teknion* in the Bible is at:

Galatians 4:19-21 ^{KJV} **"My Little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed⁹ in you, {20} I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. {21} Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?"**

⁹ Aorist Passive Subjunctive G3445 (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries), *μορφώω*, *morphoō*, *mor-fo'-o*, From the same as G3444; to *fashion* (figuratively): - form.

The Apostle said "I struggle like a woman in labor until Christ is formed in you". When you become a believer by faith in Christ God comes to live inside of you, but Christ is not **formed in you** until you surrender to that indwelling Spirit. The Christian is *not under the Law of Moses*, but He is *under the Law of God*. He obeys the Law because Christ obeyed the Law. He does not follow the teaching shadows¹⁰ of the Law - the feasts, the sacrifices, the symbolism - but He is obedient to the moral codes of the Law.

A Christian, saved by the Grace of God, cannot still be a practicing homosexual, adulterer, drunkard, liar, thief, blasphemer, sluggard, drug abuser, or any other evil worker. If God is in you, dear believer, then you are called to a higher standard! The ancient Church would have blushed at the lies that many preachers tell their flocks. Would Christ steal? Then if Christ is in you and you in Him, why would you steal? Would Christ be engaged in illicit sexual activity? Away with that thought - it's mere mention is a blasphemy that reddens the ears! If Christ would not do this and Christ is in you, then why would you do this?

The early Church at Corinth was located in a city where a pagan temple was. In order to worship the pagan goddess their heretics had to go to that temple and have sexual intercourse with a temple prostitute. The Apostle admonished the Church when some of its members went

¹⁰ The symbolic feasts and rituals in the Law served to teach of the Coming Christ. Once Christ came the believer no longer has to follow those rituals. They fulfilled their function by teaching us that Christ. The Law was a **shadow of good things to come (Hebrews 10:1)**, but now that Christ is here we no longer need the shadows of the Law.

and "joined in the festivities", saying:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20^{NIV} "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. {19} Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

If you are saved, you are indwelt by the Triune God. Run, do not walk - RUN from **sexual immorality**.

The Christian shuns every sin that Christ would shun because Christ is in you. You are the result of an *eternal work* of God.

In the Old Testament God wrote on two tablets of stone with His finger¹¹ Ten Commandments that every Israelite was to obey. But because this Law was *outside the body* the Israelite constantly broke it. When you accepted Christ as Savior God came inside of you *literally*, and began to write His Law on your hearts. As it is written:

2 Corinthians 3:3^{KJV} [Forasmuch as ye are] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but

¹¹ **Exodus 31:18^{KJV} And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**

with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Not too long ago our Association had to disfellowship itself from a local Church that was baptizing and accepting members who remained in sexual immorality. The pastor of that Church reasoned that since salvation *is by faith alone in Christ alone* then those who are saved do not have to repent of and abstain from sexual sin. The pastor justified himself by saying that *all sin is the same*, and if we do not reject the fat believer we should not reject the sexually sinning believer. To this I respond ...

HOGWASH!

It is true that all sin is an offense against God, but the Apostle makes it clear that *sexual immorality* is a sin that is especially destructive. All other sins are *outside* of our bodies, but sexual sin brings *physical disease* into the body. The organization AVERT¹², an international AIDS charity reports that:

"more than 20 million people have died of AIDS since 1981. Africa has 12 million AIDS orphans. By December 2004 women accounted for 47% of all people living with HIV worldwide, and for 57% in sub-Saharan Africa. Young people (15-24 years old) account for half of all new HIV infections worldwide - more than 6,000 become infected with HIV every day."¹³

"A total of 900,930 AIDS cases have been reported in the USA

¹² avert.org

¹³ <http://www.avert.org/worldstats.htm>

[for 2004]. Of these, 757,588 (84% of those with known residence) were reported in major metropolitan areas. New York has accounted for 137,178 cases and Los Angeles-Long Beach for 47,379. In 2003, the highest annual rates of AIDS cases were in New York (59.2 per 100,000 people), Miami (45.8), San Francisco (45.2), Fort Lauderdale (39.9) and Baltimore (39.3)."¹⁴

The **wages of sin is death**¹⁵, and nothing bring death faster than sexual immorality. If you are a Christian you *must* keep on abiding in Christ. If you claim to be a Christian and yet remain in your sin, you may find that you have incurred Christ's displeasure while at the same time bringing disaster to your own life. Listen Beloved: those who are born again are commanded to *keep on abiding in Christ*.



To abide in Christ is *to please Christ*, not the world. The third use of the Greek *teknion* is in our current chapter, where we read:

1 John 2:1 ^{KJV} "My **little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"**

Children in the Family of God should not want to *offend God* - nor should we be concerned about what the world has to say about our faith. The world will always hate us. Jesus said:

¹⁴ <http://www.avert.org/usastatc.htm>

¹⁵ **Romans 6:23 ^{KJV} For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

John 15:17-19 ^{NIV} "This is my command: Love each other. (18) **If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.** (19) If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

The world will hate you because you're not like they are, chasing after sin and every evil work. Rejoice believer, for you are in good company! The world hated Jesus and the Father long before it hated you.

Abide in Christ, walk in the Light that is Christ, and you will find yourself as popular as a pair of bowling shoes at a fancy wedding. So what? We should please Christ before we please the world. We should love Christ more than we love anyone else.

People say that Christians are *intolerant* when they do not go along with the things of the world. Author *Kelly Boggs* addressed this foolishness in his article entitled **Genuine Love Tells The Truth**¹⁶. He wrote:

"Did you know that some people are able to drink through their nose? I have seen it done. Trust me; it is not a pretty sight.

If some were to assert that it is their choice to ingest liquids through their nose, they would be correct. However, love would compel me to point out the truth that the nose was not designed for such a use. I might even suggest that pursuing

¹⁶ Pulpit Helps, Vol 30, No. 9, pg 18

such a practice could eventually result in negative, albeit unintended, consequences.

If nose-drinkers sought to have their practice legitimized as an acceptable form for the intake of liquids, I would oppose them. Love would motivate me to oppose a biologically aberrant behavior from being portrayed as a normal choice.

Silly analogy? Perhaps. However, there is nothing silly about the attempt to redefine marriage so as to include homosexual relationships. In so doing, society will legitimize a lifestyle that is both biologically and sociologically unhealthy.

"Love" that ignores the truth and is only emotionally positive or empathetic is not genuine love. Real love risks telling the truth."

The world may want to redefine what God has labeled as "sin" and call it "alternate lifestyle", but the world is often wrong whereas God is never wrong. If you are a child of God then you must follow what the Master says, not what the world says. You are required to walk in the Light of Christ whether such a walk is popular or not.

2. Believers Walk With The Light That Is Christ

FOCAL 1 John 2:28-29 ^{KJV}¹⁷ "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, **we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.** {29} **If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of**

¹⁷ KJV, NIV, HCSB: King James Version, New International Version, Holman Christian Standard Versions respectively are used throughout this study

him."

Believers must walk *with* Christ in everything that they do. In our world today people claim to be Christian and yet live their lives as if Christ is no where around. He is in this room with us this very minute, and will be with you when you leave this room. Yet many of us are like the disciples who, on the road to Emmaus¹⁸, walked *seven miles with Jesus* but never knew Who they were talking to until the trip was ended.

The Apostle exhorts us to walk *with Christ*. When the believer walks with Christ he does not need to be **ashamed before Him at His coming**. Are you saved? If so, the Apostle tells you plainly:

1 John 3:7-10 ^{KJV} "**Little children**, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. {8} He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. {9} **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.** {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."

¹⁸ Luke 24:13

Saved people act saved. Saved people *live righteously* - not self-righteously, but *righteously* because they know that Jesus watches them. Someone else watches the Christian, too. The unbeliever watches us.

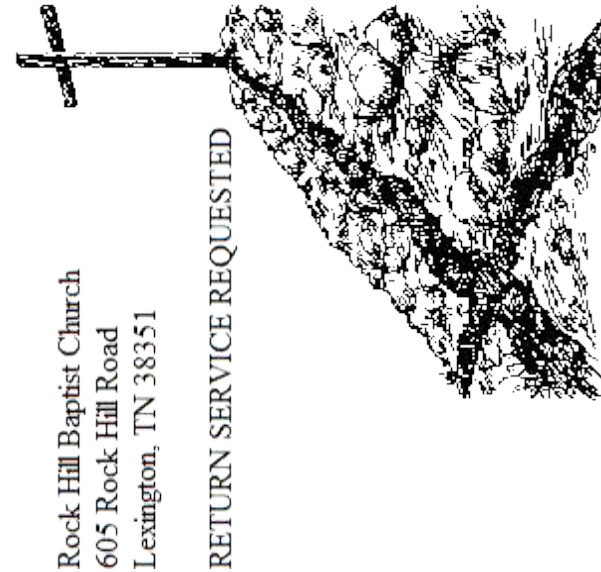
A local Church I know of has a ministry outreach to deprived children. One night the teachers got these children together and had them write a poem. The poem is called **Who Am I?**, and it goes like this:

I am the boy you pass in the hall,
I am the boy who likes to play ball.
I am the boy who has many struggles and strifes,
I am the boy who has a happy life.
I am the boy with one foot only,
I am the boy who is feeling lonely.
I am the boy whose parents went their separate ways,
I am the boy who feels stupid most of the days.
I am the boy who loves to skate,
I am the boy who sometimes hates.
I am the boy who feels very mad you see.
I am the boy whose mom makes fun of me.
I am the boy you said a kind word to,
I am the boy who is told there is nothing I can do.
I am the boy who feels very mad,
I am the boy who is mistreated and sad.
I am the boy who wants to grow up and be good,
I am the boy who loves God like I should.
I am the boy who believes he has a chance in life,
I am the boy who cuts his self with a knife.
I am the boy who only gets a good meal at school,
I am the boy who needs your attention and breaks rules.
I am the boy who is happy and unhappy at the same time,
I am the boy you fed at the end of the line.
I am the boy who you will not speak to,
I am the boy trying to be nice for you.

**I am the boy who has lots of friends,
I am the boy who wants you by him till the end.
I am the boy who has tried to commit suicide,
I am the boy who wants you to look at him and say hi.
I am probably that boy you are thinking of,
I am that boy who needs your prayers and love.**

This poem was written by a bunch of young boys. Who is watching you? Jesus is watching you, but these young boys may be watching you as well. The world is looking for what Jesus has to offer. The world is looking for Jesus in your life.

I pray that God has touched your hearts with these words.



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