

As He Is

1 John 4:17



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FOCAL Read Together 1 John 4:17 ... as He is, so are we in this world.

As God writes through the Apostle John He makes a very profound statement. He says, “**As He (meaning God) is, so are we in this world**”. This is a simple sentence composed of nine single syllable words – and yet this is a profound statement.

The statement is simple - nine single syllable words. The Christian way of life is simple. The happiest person in the world is the young, newly born again Christian before the Bible scholars and the Pharisees get hold of them. Christianity is meant to be simple - childlike simple. God is complex, but the way we are to be Christians is not.

1. As He Is

FOCAL 1 John 4:17 ... **as He is**, so are we in this world.

The POINT of the text is centered in Christ. Your identity as believers is centered in Christ.

The text doesn't say “as He WAS so are we”, but “as He IS so are we”. God is never a “was”, and Jesus Christ is very God of very God. You can only use a WAS with Jesus if you use it in the context of the Heavenly angels, who said:

Revelation 4:8 ... Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God has no beginning, and neither does God the Son have a beginning. Just as God the Father is the **eternal I AM** Jesus Christ is the **eternal I AM**. Jesus told the Pharisees, a people who were lost and far from God, that:

John 8:56-58 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. {57} Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? {58} Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Jesus didn't say "before Abraham WAS, I WAS". He said "before Abraham WAS, I AM". He used the most Holy Name of God and applied that Name to Himself. Jesus IS as God IS. Though "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14), the Eternal Son did not come into existence when He took upon Himself flesh. That God became Man is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

The Prophet Isaiah said:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (meaning "God with Us" - see Matthew 1:23)

Jesus Christ IS God just as God IS God. The only change Jesus ever experienced in Being is the change He took

upon Himself when He took on humanity through the Virgin Mary. God told Israel:

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

And the Scripture tells us of Christ that He IS:

Hebrews 13:8 ... the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

The world will do all it can to minimize, cover, or negate the message of Jesus Christ. As His Church we must never follow the world.

Our context tells us that the world will do everything it can to minimize, cover, or negate Jesus Christ. From the very beginning false prophets have went about trying to either remove Christ from the message of the Gospel, or else they have tried to make the truth that *God became Perfect Man* out to be a myth. John says:

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. {2} Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: {3} And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist ...

"False prophets have GONE OUT into the world"

emphasizes that these false prophets generally come from the congregation of the Saints.

Some false prophets *speak* Biblical error. Other false prophets *live* Biblical error. Both detract from Christ.

In every local Church that has ever been there have been people who *falsely professed* to be Christians but who were not Christian in action or in truth. The Apostle Paul told the pastors at Ephesus:

Acts 20:28-30 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. {29} For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. {30} Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Pastors are called to **feed the Church of God on the good Word of God**. Paul warned that betrayers – false disciples would **come from among those very pastors who would speak perverse thing – perverted things**. Their intent would not be to point to Christ, but to **draw away disciples after them**. This has happened from the very beginning of the Church Age. Just because someone is given the title of “Doctor, Reverend, Elder, Brother, Deacon, or Mister” does not mean that this person is God called and God filled. The false prophets went out of the Church saying that Christ *had not come in the flesh*. This

was a lie. **Christ is come in the flesh**. Eternal God took on human flesh. Why? Jesus said:

Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Jesus IS COME in the flesh. His purpose for coming in the flesh was to save men from their sins.

Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation. He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. He is the **Author of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:9)**. He is the **only Sacrifice for sins, laying down His life for us (1 John 3:16)**. He is the **image of the invisible God (2 Corinthians 4:4)** Who eternally gave Himself for all who will believe in Him. The Scripture says:

Colossians 1:13-18 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: {14} In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: {15} Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: {16} For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: {17} And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. {18} And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

2. As He IS, So ARE We

Jesus IS. As He is. Jesus came to save this world. But Jesus never came to blend with the world. The more we bind with Jesus the more we will be overcomers.

1 John 4:4-6 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. {5} They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. {6} We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

The false prophets speak sermons and words that are pleasing to the world. Dear friends, **as He is, so are we in this world.**

When Jesus came He was always at the center of controversy. The religious world of that day had wandered far away from God. They were more involved with *programs* than they were with *people*. They were more focused on *teaching traditions* than they were in *trusting the Lord*. The Pharisees were hypocrites.

Now, I believe that we all have a little hypocrite in us.

The word “hypocrite” means to have two faces.

There isn't one of us in this Church – or anywhere in the world – that doesn't have two faces. If you talk one way

on the Church grounds and another way driving down the highway you're being two faced. If you smile at someone to their face but talk bad about them behind their back you're being two faced. We all – to a degree, and if we'll be honest – have a little hypocrite in us.

ILLUSTRATE A pastor went to visit someone who professed to be a Christian but who never came to Church. This professor of Christ said, “I don't come to Church because I don't like being around hypocrites”. The Pastor replied, “I'm sorry you saw so many hypocrites, but if you passed by a mirror and looked at it, you'd have seen one more”. That's true! A person who professes Christ but does not do as He says is somewhat of a hypocrite. Jesus said:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

What was one of His commandments? Jesus told His disciples:

John 13:34-35 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.

How can you love one another if you will not come together? **As He is, so are we in this world.**

Jesus condemned the Pharisees because they had religion without relationship.

Jesus didn't condemn the incidental hypocrisy that we all have in us, but He condemned the Pharisees because they *made a profession out of their hypocrisy.*

SEVEN TIMES – and seven is the number of God – Jesus said to the Pharisees **“woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”**

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

The Pharisees made it impossible for anyone to get into Heaven. They took the Law of God and so twisted it that they **shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men.** They taught that a person could only get into Heaven if he followed this law and that law and the other law. They made the way of salvation a manish thing, and by their man centered Gospel they removed Christ from the equation. The Pharisee gets great satisfaction by living by the Law, for there is great satisfaction in thinking that you are *good enough* to get into God's Heaven. Dear friends, no one is good enough to get into Heaven. We cannot get into Heaven y what we do, but we must enter Heaven because **Christ is come in the flesh.** He alone is **Hebrews 5:9 ... the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;**

The central teaching of the Word of God – the scarlet

thread that runs from Genesis to Revelation – is that God has made a way for ALL Who believe to be saved.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). When you – repenting of your way of life come to The Way of Life – then He will save you. **As He is, so are we in this world.** The Christian is not just the person who makes and follows Law and Traditions of men, but the Christian is the person who has called upon the Name of the Lord. The Scripture says:

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

You **shall be saved** when you call on Jesus. **As He is, so are we in this world.** Jesus told the Pharisees:

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Jesus is come in the flesh to seek and to save the lost. **Jesus is come in the flesh** because *love is an action.*

The Pharisees spoke a good fight. They prayed long prayers, but were utterly devoid of love. **They devoured widow's houses.** They preyed while they prayed. They

acted as if they were holy and righteous, and yet money was their God.

Dear friends, if you are truly a Christian you are a Christian because Christ is in you. **As He is, so are we in this world.** John said:

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. {8} He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

God is love. Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world. If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, He is none of His.

Romans 8:9 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.

So many people today that are in the Church are in the habit of coming to the assembly of the Church, singing, praying, and then going home. But **God is love.** The **Spirit of Christ indwells those who are His.** The Pharisees were condemned by Christ because they had an outward appearance of religion, but in practice they were no more than devils. If you are born again **as He is, so are we.** Love is an action, and Christ put His love into action.

He loves us, so He left Heaven.
He loves us, so He became flesh.

He loves us, so He walked among us.
He loves us, so He presented God's Word to us.
He loves us, so He touches us.
He loves us, so He went to Calvary in our place.
He loves us, so He calls us to salvation.
He loves us, so He expects us to be like Him.

Love is an action that reaches out to better others. Some who profess Christ say “I love you”, but they love no one but themselves, and prove it by their actions.

Our purpose is fulfilled when we love others. We love others by being like Christ to others. The Pharisees *knew* Scripture, but *lived* like dogs and not like God. They used the Scripture for their own profit, not to save men from their sins. The Bible says:

1 John 4:9-11 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. {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. {11} Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

As He is, so are we in this world. Christ gave up everything to become the Covering for our sins. He satisfied God on our behalf by taking our sins upon Himself. Praise God that Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself, for we as Christians are not sinless in deed now, nor will we ever be while on this earth. We will always fail and flail because of our imperfections. Yet within

every true Christian God abides, and God is love.

Brothers and sisters, we cannot be perfect, and no one's perfect, but we ought to love. As He is so are we in this world.

The local Church will never be perfect, for Christians are not perfect. We need to remember that, and to love one another. We who are His Church are His representatives on the earth. **As He is, so are we in this world.** We should do right as He did right. We should love the Word for He is the Word. We should love one another for He is love. We should reach out to others for He reached out to others.

1 John 4:12-14 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. {13} Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. {14} And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

We do not compromise our message as we love. It was controversial when Jesus said **“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – no man comes to God the Father but by Me” (John 14:6)**. It will be controversial now. It was controversial when Jesus warned people that there was a **broad path to destruction, but a narrow way unto life**. The only way to be saved is by faith in Christ. The only way to be saved is to call upon God, asking Him to come and save you while indwelling you.

If you are born again, **as He is, so are we in this world**. We may be imperfect, but we can love one another with a godly love. We can be kind, but honest. We can warn against sin while pointing to the Savior. We can do that which is love. We can do more than sit in the pews. We can fulfill God's purpose in us by being like Jesus.

As He is so are we in this world.

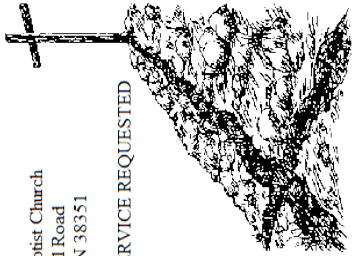
The world will never see Jesus unless it sees Him in us.

3. As He IS, So ARE We, In This World

What are some ways that you can be more like Jesus? Can you reach out to others? The world calls Christians to be like Christ, and the world needs us to be like Christ.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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1. As He Is

- The _____ of the text is centered in Christ. Your identity as believers is centered in Christ.

Revelation 4:8; John 8:56-58; Isaiah 7:14; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; 1 John 4:1-3; Acts 20:28-30; Matthew 18:11; Colossians 1:13-18

- The world will do all it can to _____. As His Church we must never follow the world.

- Some false prophets _____ Biblical error. Other false prophets _____ Biblical error.

- Jesus IS COME in the flesh. His purpose for coming in the flesh _____

2. As He IS, So ARE We

1 John 4:4-6; John 14:15; John 13:34-35

- The word “hypocrite” means _____

- Jesus condemned the Pharisees because they had _____ without _____

Matthew 23:13; Hebrews 5:9; Romans 10:13; Matthew 23:14; 1 John 4:7-8; Romans 8:9; 1 John

4:9-11; 1 John 4:12-14

- The central teaching of the Word of God – the scarlet thread that runs from Genesis to Revelation – is that _____

- Love is an _____ that reaches out to better others. Some who profess Christ say “I love you”, but they love _____

- Brothers and sisters, we cannot be perfect, and no one's perfect, but _____

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