March 26, 2023
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 John 3:10b-24

"Social Test #2: "We'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" – Part 6

I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27 – [Moral; Social; Doctrinal tests]
III. **Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28-4:6**
  A. The Moral Test – 2:28-3:10 – Family Resemblance
  B. **The Social Test – 3:10b-24 – Family Resemblance**
    1. Obvious Family Resemblance (10b-12)
    2. Shocking Family Resemblance (13-16)
    3. Practical Family Resemblance (17-18)
    4. Confident Family Resemblance (19-22)
    5. _____ **Family Resemblance (23-24)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. What are the three tests of eternal life that John repeats in his letter? Some people think that it doesn't matter what you **believe**, but as long as you do the right things (i.e., love people) you will go to heaven. What would you say to them? What passages of Scripture would you use to show them that believing the right things is essential?

2. What are some different definitions for the word "**believe**"? Use a concordance to see how the Apostle John uses the word "believe" in the Gospel of John and in 1 John. What does he mean when he talks about the kind of belief that guarantees eternal life? Why would God **command** us to believe? (Jn. 6:26-40; Acts 17:30-31)

3. What does it mean to believe "**in the name**" of God's Son Jesus Christ? What specific things must a person believe about Jesus to be a true child of God?

4. What is the connection between **believing** in Jesus and **loving** other believers? How would you answer someone who says they believe in and love Jesus, but they don't love Christians?

5. What does it mean to **abide** in God? In what way does God abide in us? What are the practical implications of this truth that God abides in us? How might meditating on that impact the way we live moment-by-moment?

6. What role does the **Holy Spirit** play in our assurance of salvation? How do we know He abides in us? What specific evidence have you seen in your life that the Holy Spirit is in you?

7. Share with your group some of the **most memorable ways that others have loved you** in the past. Why do those specific acts of love stand out in your memory?

8. Spend some time in prayer asking the Lord to enable you to do an honest evaluation of your life (see Ps. 139:23-24; 26:2; Prov. 17:3; Jer. 17:10). Look at your lifestyle (habit patterns) and answer the question, **"Is it obvious that you are a child of God? Is there a clear and striking family resemblance?"** When people look at you, do they see someone who is like Jesus? If so, what are the obvious signs that you believe the true Gospel, that you are committed to a true church, that you are obedient to the Lord Jesus and His inspired Word, and that you sacrificially love God and His children?

9. **Memorize 1 John 3:23-24.**

[Answers to blank: *Comprehensive*]