



TREATMENT FOR THE SELFISH HEART

AUGUST 28, 2023

1 JOHN 3:17 NKJV – (17) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

John offers a direct application to show God's love abides in the believer, in the form of a question. This involves a person who has more than enough to meet his or her own needs, but who chooses to be hard-hearted, failing to meet the other person's need. Keeping material things for ourselves, beyond our needs, while brothers or sisters suffer shows a lack of love. **A believer in Christ should have concern for the needs of others**, and not merely in an emotional sense.

John was a student of John the Baptist before following Jesus (**John 1:35–39**). The application he gives here in **verse 17** is very similar to the teaching of John the Baptist, that someone with two shirts should give one to the person who has none (**Luke 3:11**).

Here again is the concept of "abiding." Christians are still capable of sin, so it's possible for a believer to be stingy, cold-hearted, or unloving. But this is a sign of someone not "abiding" in Christ. That attitude is never the product of fellowship with Jesus. Cold-heartedness or hatred are always signs of spiritual failure.

2 Timothy 3:2 states that in the last days they will be lovers of themselves. Selfish, looking out for their own. The above passage is referring to those especially who claim to abide in Christ. Those who claim Him as the head of their lives but make excuses to keep from serving another. Even if the other side has an evil agenda, we (The children of Christ) must abide in His way of love, understand the resources we have do not belong to us and most of all, if you are able, serve and don't not look back!

For He see's what you have done. Abide in love. That's the remedy.

SCRIPTURE READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:4

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The best weapon for selfishness is selfishness for the cause of others.