

# Consuming, Abiding, Being One

A Commencement for the rChurch

# Scriptural Overview of John

- John 1:1-14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him. ... But to all who **received** him, who **believed** in his **name**, he gave power to become **children** of God, who were **born**, not of flesh or the will of man, but **of God**.”

# Scriptural Overview of John

- John 3:1-8 “Jesus answered Nicodemus, *Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being **born from above** ... without being **born of water and spirit.**”*
- John 4:7-14 “The woman said to him, *Where do you get that **living water**?* Jesus said, *Those who **drink** of the **water** I give them will **never be thirsty** ... it is a spring of **water** gushing up **to eternal life.**”*

# Scriptural Overview of John

- John 4:23-24 “The hour is coming ... when the true worshippers will **worship** the Father in **spirit and truth**. God is spirit and those who worship him must worship in **spirit and truth**.”
- John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, *I am the **bread of life**, whoever **comes** to me will **never hunger**. and whoever **believes** to me will **never be thirsty**.”*

# Scriptural Overview of John

- John 8:12 “Again Jesus spoke to them, *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*”
- John 14:11-14 “Believe me that *I am in the Father and the Father is in me. ... Very truly I tell you the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and, in fact, will do greater works than these*”

# Scriptural Overview of John

- John 17:20-26 *“As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, **may they also be in us, so that the world may believe you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one as we are one.... I made your name known to them ... so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**”*

# Bonus Scriptures

- Luke 22:19-21 “Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them saying, *This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.* And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying *this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Drink it in remembrance of me.* (Remember my Name)

# Bonus Scriptures

- Ephesians 5:31-32 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and **the two will become one flesh**. This is **a great mystery**, and I am applying it to **Christ and the church.**”
- Luke 18:29-30 “*There is no one who has left **house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come.***”

# Trying to Follow Christ in the iWorld

- We are told we have to do it ourselves.
- We are told we have to follow the rules
- We are told we have to try harder
- The Nicodemus (Pharisee) Problem
- Frustration, the sense something is missing, or, in my case, a 2 year meltdown. Because it doesn't work this way

# What is Following Jesus All About?

- Believing in His Name (The Triune God)
- Receiving Him –Welcoming Him into our Whole Being
- Eating Him, Drinking Him, Allowing his Light to Fill our Entire Being
- This is Being Born From Above.
- By Being Born from Above We can worship Him in Spirit and Truth. (It is the ONLY way)

# How Does This Happen?

- The Mystery of **Abiding Love** and **Becoming One**
- What is the Mystery?
- We cannot do it by ourselves. None of it.
- How then? **LOVE!**
- **Love** is a Relational Category
- When we welcome God into our Hearts a new birth happens and we find ourselves in the family of God. But this is just the beginning.

# What is this New Birth?

- The mystery of being Reborn is the Process of Being grafted into the Family of God (**Vine and Branches**)
- It is a mystery of being consuming God and being consumed by God (**Eating, Drinking** and Letting the **Light** in.)
- It is a relational process involving our fellow believers, our brothers and sisters.
- It is intentional, gradual (or not), and the only way.

# What is “The Way”

- The mystery of opening our interior to the Love of God from the Spirit and each other.
- The journey of going from a place of shame and hiding to a relationship of openness and abiding with the Spirit and each other.
- Let me give testimony to my personal journey of new birth
- It involves the mystery of “where 2 or 3 are gathered”, to the small group, the family, the local congregation, the Universal Church.

# Concluding Reflections

- Growth can only occur in:
  - Relationship with God and each other governed by healthy boundaries and anchored in purity
  - To the greater degree we grow in this, Christ (**LOVE**) dwells more deeply between and within us and he does the miracle of greater things.
  - Marriage is the “**flesh**” illustration, this is the spiritual manifestation of the example
  - God created Marriage to establish **FAMILY** for **EVERYONE**. Abiding in Christ and His **CHURCH** is also or **EVERYONE**

# Final Reflection

- The rWay is the ONLY way.
- Every Relationship under Heaven is a gift, and is to be treated as such.
- Each one of us, either build up or tear down the body of Christ, each other, the Church, and the work of God on earth
- When control is relinquished to GOD and purity is embraced relationally, GOD works to make us ONE in LOVE.