

LINKED IN

I JOHN 3:13-24

# “LINKED IN”

- There is a network on the Internet called "Linked In." It seeks to provide the opportunity for people to stay in touch with each other and to serve as resources for each other in times of particular need.
- Christians must be “linked In” with Christ and one another in love.

# THE CHURCH IN CONFLICT WITH THE WORLD

- “Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. (V. 13)
- “Do not love the world...” (I John 2:15-17)
- The gospel, not the world is to be the guide for the church’s faith and action.

# CONFLICT EVIDENT IN THEMES

- Two great themes in John's gospel.
  - Jesus reveals God to the world.
  - Jesus demands his followers to love each other
- Themes repeated in I John.
  - “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.” (v. 23)

# THE DEPTH OF THE GIFT – THE GRAVITY OF THE DEMAND

- “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” (v. 16)
- This giving of a life is not just in the extreme but also in the everyday give and take of life.
- “ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?” (v. 17)

# THE TRUTH IN TRUISMS

- "Practice what you preach."
- "Walk the walk, don't just talk the talk."
- "Sermons in shoes."
- "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (v. 18)

# SPIRITUALLY “LINKED IN”

- “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.” (v. 24)
- As we keep his commandments, he abides in us and we in him – Spiritually “linked in”
- **“When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.”**