



**THE URGENCY & POWER OF JOHN'S EXHORTATION ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST IN THE ABOVE VERSES. First big negative** - if for any reason you forget or refuse to believe that God is Father and Jesus Christ is His Son and you are the Father's children then you will fail to have the personal fulfilment of sonship. The emotional needs you have, which pertain to your creational and redemptional sonship will be wholly denied. The functional nature of your sonship will be impeded. You will have the drive of sonship but not the fulfilment - thus a life which is malfunctional, dysfunctional, disoriented and dislocated. You will be denying your own personal essential sonship. **Second big negative** - you will lose your participation in functional familyhood. You may imitate familyhood with others in terms of fraternal response, but it will be empty. There can be no true family without the Father, without the Son.

**SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GOSPEL** The Gospel of Christ must peak and climax in the Fatherhood of God. Otherwise it's truncated and virtually useless. It can give salvation only as an escape from judgment and punishment, without the knowledge or experience of reaching up to our Father in gratitude. We don't see creation as a system headed up by the one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all (Eph 4:6, 1Cor 8:5-6). The implications for the human race are many and powerful. As Father, man can have personal fulfilment in sonship under the Father, brotherhood under the Elder Brother and in the familyhood of all the children of God. **So God's Fatherhood, Christ's Brotherhood and the being of the Family of God are indispensable to the functional, relational, emotional, vocational and personal fulfillment of man.** (Bill - relate this to GCO and the Call for Unity & Transformation). **HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO GRACE?** The grace that redeems man is simultaneously Fatherly, Filial, of the Spirit and Familial. It is not seen in this light then we have a church which is not the family or household of God but just an aggregate of "saved" persons. It is not constitutionally the functional family **that is fulfilling the emotional needs of its members (Bill, a little light just went on)**, it will remain an organisation, fragmented into denominations and sects, operating as experimental units, despite what doctrines are taught about family, household, body of Christ, people of God, bride of Christ, temple of God etc. **The functional overall bonding of the people of God lies in His essential nature of Father. The only access of sinful man is through the Son via the revelatory ministry of the Holy Spirit. The ontological basis of Familyhood is the nature of the Triune Godhead as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The essential love of God is required for the relational fullness of man as son and familial creature. Thus antichrist tries to cloud the nature of God as Father and as Son. THIS TRUTH IS CALLED "THE ANOINTING" - AND IS A DEADLY THREAT TO ALL ANTICHRISTLINESS including the mock familyhood of Satan - that's why he must kill the truth of God as father and Christ as Son or he is doomed.**

**DESIRED OUTCOMES.** Comfort and security in the Father and the Son. Meet emotional needs. End confusion about fatherhood based on worldly experience. Better relationship with our blood families. Rehabilitate all earthly relationships.

**DESTROYING ELITISM.** Only the Gospel of the FATHERHOOD, BROTHERHOOD & FAMILYHOOD can break down caste, tribal pride, exclusivism and the spirit of elitism because it will cause the families and tribes therein to find their true identity in the Family of the Father.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR MISSION ... ON A GRAND SCALE.** Given the 3 divisions of theology (PATERIOLOGY - the person and work of the Father. CHRISTOLOGY - the person and work of the Son and PNEUMATOLOGY - the person and work of the Holy Spirit) the ultimate concern of the Gospel is not ESCHATOLOGICAL (the part of theology concerned with death, judgement, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind) **it is immediately Pateriology i.e. for man the ultimate is coming to the Father, through the Son and Holy Spirit and coming that WAY makes him complete..** The Gospel is not just EUANGELION (good news where eu = good, angelos = messenger) or KERUGMA (proclamation, preaching) it must be Pateriological in order for it to be Christological and Pneumalogical. **HENCE IT WILL BE DEFICIENT AND INEVITABLY PRODUCE DEFICIENT CHURCHES. History shows that missionary churches have concentrated on salvation and the Lordship of Christ but have neglected the truth of the "Father and the Son". THIS MEANS THE FUNCTIONAL NATURE OF THE CHURCH AS THE FAMILY OF GOD WILL RECEIVE LITTLE OR NO RECOGNITION. THUS THE PROBLEMS OF THESE CHURCHES WILL MULTIPLY.** The call to love in the NT is in this sequence 1. Triune God loves us 2. we love both God and others because He first loved us (1Jn 4:19-20). 3. Family love is vertical love to God plus brotherly horizontal love. **REMINDER** - IF GOD IS NOT AUTHENTIC (ONTOLOGICAL) FATHER AND JESUS AUTHENTIC (ONTOLOGICAL) SON THEN THERE CAN BE NO AUTHENTIC (ONTOLOGICAL) FAMILY. **THE TRUE WITNESS TO GOD AS FATHER AND CHRIST AS SON MUST BE THE PRESENCE OF THE FAMILY - THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD. ANY PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL MUST BE IN THE AUTHENTIC SETTING OF THE FAMILY. THE EVANGELISTIC PROCLAIMING CHURCH MUST BE DONE FROM A FAMILIAL STRUCTURE. SMALL TEAMS DOING APOSTOLIC PROCLAMATION WERE "THE BRETHREN".**

**BRETHREN OR DISCIPLES?** Disciples are followers of Christ. John makes it clear that our nature as sons (brethren) is largely hidden from the world (1Jn 3:1, Jn 15:21-26). Thus too our unique familyhood. It's the familyhood witness that is essential for the true witness and proclamation of the Gospel. **SEE FIRST CHAPTERS OF ACTS FOR ABUNDANT PROOF AND DEMONSTRATION OF THIS. "FAMILY" COMMENCED AT PENTECOST AND SHOWED ITSELF IN THE ONENESS (UNITY) OF ALL.**

**ERROR WARNING.** Avoid divisible thinking of God as God, Jesus as Messiah (or Jesus as The Christ). This denies their indivisible being as Father & Son. We can nominally believe the truth but existentially act out the error i.e. not know and experience Him as the Son. **THIS WOULD RADICALLY AFFECT OUR WAY OF LIFE, OUR PROCLAMATION OF THE TRUTH AND WOULD DEPRIVE US OF TRUE RELATIONAL, EMOTIONAL, VOCATIONAL AND PERSONAL FULFILMENT. AND OUR CHURCH STRUCTURE AND LIFE AS THE ESSENTIAL MODUS OPERANDI OF LIVING WOULD BE AFFECTED. So antichrist may have compromised the Church. Avoid liberal thinking of the universal fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man (unscriptural)**