

The Lord's Day Morning

January 14, 1945

“Being What You Are”
Scripture Lesson – 1 John 3:1-10
Text – 1 John 3:2, 3

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Introduction

1. You can tell what one should do by what they are
 - a. Put a fine five-gaited horse out on the cattle range. You would not expect that gaited horse to know that when the cow boy had roped the two front legs of the calf he was to pull back and keep the rope taut so the calf could not get onto its feet. By the same token you would not expect the cow pony to go into the show ring and do the five gaits.
 - b. Further you would not expect a college professor of philosophy to get on a cow pony and be able to rope a calf by its front feet and then know how to tie it quickly so it could be doctored. He is not a cowboy. By the same reasoning, you would not expect the cowboy to go into the classroom and lecture on philosophy.
 - c. This is sound reasoning and you will all agree with me about it.
 - d. But let us put this same idea over into the moral realm
- I. We are human beings and should act like such
 1. There are certain traits of character which human beings possess and we expect people to act like human beings.
 2. Take matter of polygamy vs. monogamy
 - a. Some say we ought to be monogamous
 1. Would demand this as code of morals
 - b. On other hand, many are rebelling against the moral code of monogamy and saying it is an old worn out code of morals and should be cast aside and men should be able to have free love.
 3. We are human beings
 - a. All the history of world has shown that the basis of human nature is monogamy.
 - b. Polygamy has failed in Turkey
 - c. France has never been a really great nation
 4. Human desires dictate monogamy
 - a. The highest desires of human nature are to have someone to love and to be loved
 1. Boy going out with young lady and said his family gave him all that he could wish or desire in the way of money, but that he wanted someone to love him.
 2. One of the instinctive desires of human beings is to have one to love and to be loved. To have a home and children and long after all infatuation

has passed to have a wife or husband as a companion of our old age and one not to live far beyond the other.

b. That is the desire of most all men because they are human beings.

1. Minister telling of boy in New York endeavoring to get a girl to be lose with her morals, and said to her, "We service men want you girls to get off your high moral perch and let us have some fun." She said, "Yes, but as a man, what kind of American girls do you want to come back to and have as your wives?" He answered, "Why, of course, sweet innocent, moral American girls."

5. You are human beings; act like human beings not necessarily because of some moral code, but because that is the way human beings act and to act otherwise is to go back to animal nature.

II. But go still higher into the spiritual realm

1. Many people say church has no right to demand of me certain things

a. I am sure you are correct; the church does not have a right to demand of you anything

1. To attend church
2. To observe the Sabbath
3. To be a tither

b. But what are you?

1. Scripture tells us you are a son of God
2. Text

c. Then live like what you are

1. Be what you are
2. Be a human being if you are one
3. Be a child of God if you are

2. Matter of church attendance

a. If you are a child of God, then do what a child of God would do; I did not say should

b. Surely a child of God would worship God

c. It is not that we say you cannot go fishing on Sunday or play golf on Sunday or rest on Sunday.

d. We urge you to be what you are; if you are a son of God, then live like one.

1. Fred Sullens had an article Wednesday, January 10, in "Low Down on the Higher Ups" about a woman who had left a house and \$20,000 to a dog and the woman's son was endeavoring to break the will. Yet that son had not for years according to the article paid the slightest attention to his mother and had apparently cared nothing for her. The editorial closed with the wish that the son could not break the will. Most of us feel that way. We feel so because the boy had failed to live as a son of his mother.

e. Some of you who rebel at what you feel or the demands of the church about worship, as yourself: "What am I?" Then ask: "Am I living like what I am?"

3. Matter of tithing

a. The church tries to get its members to tithe or at least to give a proportion of their income to God.

1. Some of you rebel and say the church has no right to demand that of you. You are correct. But what are you? A heathen? An unbeliever? Or are you a son of God?

2. If a son of God, then live like one.

b. It is not a stern business contract

1. Young lady who worked at State Patrol Office asking me about tithing. She said she made \$125.00 a month and should she tithe on that or on what she received after her social security and withholding tax, etc. had been taken out. I said, "Why, God would not keep books with you.

However, I feel those things which are deducted are surely for your own sake and not for God. But do what you think should do about it as a child of God."

c. Story of man in McComb – Martin Luther Powell. When he was introduced to me, I asked him if he was trying to live up to his name and he said, "Well, yes I am." Mr. Sturvis Johnson, standing there, said, "He really is; I will tell you his story sometime. Later he did tell me this story:

"The man Martin Luther Powell came into his bank and told him that he owned a small mercantile store out a few miles from McComb, and that he needed to borrow \$1,000. He asked what securities he had to give, and the man answered he had none whatever except his word. The loan committee met and, though they knew little or nothing about the man, they decided to let him have the \$1,000. However, when the man came to make the loan, he needed \$1,250 which Mr. Johnson, with great reluctance, finally let him have. In time, the man paid the loan back. At this time, Mr. Johnson talked to him about being a Christian and accepting Christ as his Savior. Mr. Johnson asked him if he needed to borrow any more money. He answered, 'No, since I have a partner, I have had no more financial difficulties.' Mr. Johnson, in surprise, said to him, 'I did not know you had taken a partner into your business.' The man said, "Yes, ever since you talked to me about living like a Christian, I went home and thought the matter over and decided that I was going to take God as my partner and ever since then our business has been operated as a partnership with Him, and 10% of the profits from the business is given to the Lord and then my wife and I give 10% of our income to the Lord. Since I started doing this, I have gotten along and I am happier than I ever was in my life. That was about eight or ten years ago. Since that time, the man has stopped running his business and lives off of his income from investments and the trades he makes in stocks and securities. He has been so wise in his investments that Mr. Johnson told me he himself had bought some securities because this man was buying them. He has given money to many of the smaller churches in McComb and in the surrounding territory and has told Mr. Johnson that if any time he knew any real need, that if he would let him know, he would be glad to meet it. Here was a man who did not begin to tithe because there was a moral obligation or at the demand of a church. He decided that he was going to live as a child of God would live and, therefore, would share with God his Father what he had.

Conclusion

1. I come to you this morning to appeal to you
 - a. To live the life of a human being because you are a human being, do not live like an animal.
 - b. To live like a child of God because you are a child of God
 1. Worship Him and keep His day
 2. Give to Him His proportion of your income