

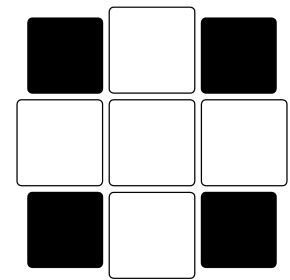
Apostasy

Scripture: **1 John 2:19**

Series: **Doctrine and Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, April 19, 2015

Corroborating Texts: 1 John 2:22–24; Matthew 13:1–9; 2 Timothy 3:12



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Overview

"Those who left us were not part of us" have left as a result of "spiritual drifting". Apostasy isn't differences in secondary issues (baptism, end times, etc.).

Discussion Questions

1. Apostasy is one who is denying the basic gospel message. Discuss in detail what this message is, specifically according to the text of 1 John. False doctrine comes at us from all angles. The mass media is filled with sensation, divergent from Christian faith. We need to stick to His word, His will, His sovereign truth. There is nothing new other than the grand old gospel.
2. See vv. 2:22–24: he who denies that Jesus is the Christ doesn't have the Father. He who acknowledges Jesus as the Christ has the Father. Also, John says, "If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father." What is it that was "heard from the beginning"? [see 1 John 1:5–2:2 - God is light. We are sinners. We have Jesus, the propitiation of our sins and our advocate.]
3. Based on the context of John's letter, is it possible that the specific apostasy mentioned (denial of Jesus as Christ) is that they are denying that they are sinners in the first place? What groups perpetrate a similar anti-gospel message today? Why might we be susceptible to wanting to hear these non-truths?
4. Can normal people like you and me slip into this false doctrine? Have you ever slipped into this false doctrine? What are we tempted to put in Christ's place as being supreme?
5. Joe mentioned four ways that we might drift from our faith in to apostasy. One of them was the world being tempting. That is, taking God's good gifts, twisting them and turning them into something to be worshiped. Naturally, the parable of the sower speaks to this. What does John's text have to say about that specifically? [see 2:15-17]
6. What part might fear of persecution and pain play in apostasy? [see Mathew 13:1–9] We can stumble when Fear of condemnation of the world makes a larger impact on us than the impact of fear of God. [2 Timothy 3:12]
7. How might we stumble when we yield to love of the world? [the love of the world will lead you away from the gospel. [Mathew 13:7] God must come first in our daily walk as we are thankful for the provisions he has made for us in the world.