

1 John 3:14-16

3-13-24 Chris Young

Review

The importance of love

1 John 3:10-15

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

We know that we have passed from death to life

We once belonged in the place where sin and death reined. At the moment of salvation, God removed us from spiritual death and transferred us into the brilliant and wonderful light of Christ's kingdom. The term transferred literally means "to move something from one place or sphere to another." We could not enter His kingdom on our own merits. The Lord is the One Who has changed the life of a believer from a turning of hate to love, resurrection from death to life, darkness to light. He has moved us into the kingdom of the Son where He reigns as King over every power of darkness.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Ephesians 2:1, 5 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Because we love the brethren (literally or figuratively)

John places importance upon the mutual love among the brethren. True genuine love comes from God. Love is the evidence of our spiritual life and an indication of our love to God, Christ and others. Believers are identified by their love for one another.

Surely, we should love those whom God hath loved, and so loved; and we shall certainly do so if we have any love for God. Matthew Henry Commentary

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Is love important in the life of a believer? What will genuine love for our brothers and sisters look like?

When we love, we reflect God's character to a lost world. Our love for our brothers and sisters should be noticeable to the world. Love meets each other's needs.

Ephesians 1:15 For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which ye show toward all the saints.

Colossians 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints.

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.

2 Peter 1:7 And in your godliness brotherly kindness; and in your brotherly kindness love.

Your love for each other shall be so decisive evidence that you are like the Saviour, that all men shall see and know it. It shall be the thing by which you shall be known among all men. Albert Barnes'

NT Commentary

He who does not love his brother abides in death

Love is the absolute test of whether someone has experienced a new birth or is still in the darkness. One that is not born of God, cannot love his brother. An unregenerate state is spiritually dead, and their end is eternal death.

1 John 2:9-11 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

Can a believer excuse hatred or anger towards another believer? Why not?

A distinguishing mark of a believer is their love of others. This love is not out of a duty, but is the evidence of God, placing His Spirit in us to produce this love from the heart.

Jesus sees the loving care believers give to each other as if it was being done directly to Him. If love to each other is absent, how can we say we love God and Christ? Jesus taught that the least of his brethren in His earthly kingdom are so closely united to Him that whatever ill treatment they receive from other brethren, is the same as if they persecuted Christ.

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Something to ponder: Do I show God’s love to others?

1 John 3:15

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer

That is, he has the spirit of a murderer; he has that which, if it were acted out, would lead him to commit murder, as it did Cain. The private malice, the secret grudge, the envy which is cherished in the heart, is murderous in its tendency, and were it not for the outward restraints of human laws, and the dread of punishment, it would often lead to the act of murder. Barnes Notes on the Bible

Murder is the ultimate expression of hate (detest, loveless, esteemless). God defines murder as any thought or feeling of deep-seated hatred or malice against another person. When we hold hatred in our hearts for another, we have committed the sin of murder in God’s eyes. Hatred is an act of disobedience to God. It is more than just a physical act but also the condition of one’s heart towards another.

Have you ever been so angry at someone that you wished that person would die? Jealousy, anger, hatred, pride, envy, and resentment towards others are “of the evil one.” We can fool ourselves and others that we are not holding hatred within our hearts towards another, but we cannot fool God. God judges the heart. He looks upon our heart for the truth.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Luke 8:17 For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

It's the heart that's the problem. People, locations, and situations don't cause me to sin; they're where the sin of my heart gets revealed... Sin is a matter of the heart. before it is ever an issue of our behavior. This means that your and my biggest problem in life exists inside us and not outside us. *New Morning Mercies Devotional*

Something to ponder: Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Psalm 4:23

And you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him

Christ is the archetype of self-sacrificing love, as Cain is of brother-sacrificing hate. Love and hate are known by their works. *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*

The person who hates his brother is, like Cain, a murderer. Hatred is always an act of disobedience to God. A lack of love shows that no saving change has taken place. The one that hates their brother is not “abiding” in Christ and are blinded by darkness and spiritually dead.

1 John 2:9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

1 John 2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

And ye assuredly know, that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him, nor can any person of that detestable character enter into the celestial kingdom, the region of perfect love. *Philip Doddridge NT Commentary*

The key evidence that a person has moved from evil to God, is love. Agape love is a selfless self-sacrificing, unselfish love that is focused on other people. This love is not just a feeling, it is a choice to act.

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

By this we know love

John uses the standard of Christ's love that is displayed in genuine Christianity. Our goal is not to love others the way we love ourselves (some of us may not like ourselves). Jesus is our example! We are to love others the same way Jesus loves us. It is loving with the love Jesus demonstrated when He gave His life. It's a love that is willing to sacrifice self to help another in need. It is a love that is beyond us. It is love through our actions.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Love is not measured by the expressions of the lip or the emotion of the heart, but by the extent to which we will do or suffer. *FB Meyer Commentary*

Something to ponder: Do I love others with the love Jesus has shown me?

Because He laid down His life for us

Jesus is our perfect example of true Christian love. He laid down His life to ransom our souls and atone for our sins. His love was self-sacrificing, selfless and focused on the needs of others' love.

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

John 10:15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren

Our Lord's self-sacrifice should encourage us to show love in a similar way. The ultimate sign of love is to lay down one's life for another. Laying down our life is sacrificial.

What does it look like to lay down our life for our brothers?

We can lay down our lives either physically or selflessly by giving our time, care, service, and prayers. If we are willing to lay down our lives for our brother, then we should also be willing to share our material possessions with others.

By this we have known the love of God to us, that his Son by his appointment laid down his life for us. Therefore, instead of hating and injuring our brethren, we ought, after Christ's example, from love to lay down our lives for mankind; and especially for the brethren, when called to do

SO. Macknight on the Epistles

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

We may never have to lay down our life for someone, but will we be willing to help someone in need?