

1 John 013

9/5/21

Love on Display

1 John 3:16-20

I. Introduction:

A. Context:

- *In chapter 3 John drew contrast between the children of God & the children of Satan.*
 1. – Family of God
 - a. The children of God are those who are saved by faith in Jesus.
 - b. By the Holy Spirit's power we have been spiritually born into the family of God.
 - c. The saved are a new creation in Christ. Eternal destination for God's child is heaven
 2. – Family of Satan
 - a. Those who are lost in their sin are children of the devil.
 - b. The lost are part of this fallen world and the evil system under which it operates.
 - c. The eternal destination of the child of Satan is the eternal lake of fire.
 - d. Application: It's vitally important to come to Jesus by faith while there's opportunity

B. Evidence

- *Evidences that confirm membership in the family of God:*
 1. – Inherent righteousness
 - a. Positional righteousness in Jesus translates into desire for practical righteousness.
 - b. One outward evidence of a child of God is a life that pursues righteousness.
 2. – Love for others
 - a. As a true child of God we will have the nature of our Heavenly Father in us.
 - b. That means it's natural, expected that we will love the brethren as God loves us.
 - c. We'll love brethren in the family of God, & we'll have empathy for lost. **(Jn13:35)**
 3. – The world's animosity
 - a. If we live like a child of God in this world, the world will hate us.
 - b. Living like Jesus in front of a lost world reminds them of their own need to be saved
 - c. That conviction is an irritation; therefore, they hate us.

II. Love on Display (1 John 3:16)

A. Jesus, our Example

1. The perfect example of love is Jesus. Jesus demonstrated His love by dying for us.
2. Jesus demonstrated His love by paying for our sin with His own life.
3. The sacrifice of self for others' benefit is the ultimate expression of love **(Jn 15:13-14)**
4. Perfect Love: Jesus loves with a perfect love. Jesus did not just die for those who love Him, He died as well for those who hate Him.

B. How we are to Love

1. God calls us to love others like Jesus loves us.
2. We are to demonstrate the same kind of love in the world. **(John 13:34)**
3. That means we're to love others sacrificially & we're also to love those who hate us.
4. Self-Sacrifice: Following Jesus' example, we're to sacrifice our self-interest for others' benefit, particularly those in the household of faith.
5. Harming someone for personal gain is the same as hate which Bible equates w/murder.
6. Willingly sacrificing one's rights for others is the greatest expression of love.
7. We are never more like Jesus than when we love others unconditionally.

III. Practical Application (1 John 3:17-18)

A. Practical Application

1. There are opportunities in life to demonstrate the love of God for those around us.
2. A Brother in Need: When seeing a brother in need, God's love compels us to help.
3. The love of God moves us to sacrifice for the benefit of the one in need.

(1) – Sacrifice of Time

- a. Time is a precious commodity. We can minister to those in need with our time.
- b. Maybe they need someone to listen or give a word of encouragement.
- c. Maybe they need someone to pray with them and for them.
- d. Maybe they need a ride to the grocery store.

(2) – Sacrifice of Talent

- a. We can minister to those in need with our talent. Maybe it's a widow who needs her lawn mowed or a brother who needs help repairing their car.
- b. Maybe you are good with computers and someone needs technical help.
- c. We can demonstrate our love and compassion by the giving of our talents.

(3) – Financial Resources

- a. We can minister to those in need with money and resources. A brother in Christ falls on hard financial times & can't pay their mortgage, rent, or the light bill.
- b. God has blessed us with resources that could meet their need.
- c. We willingly use that money or resource to lighten our brother's financial burden.

B. Love is More Than Words (1 John 3:18)

1. True love is always connected to action. (**John 3:16**)
2. The genuineness of God's love for us is seen in His giving. Because God really does love us, He gave what was necessary to redeem us. He gave His only begotten Son.
3. Application: Love is real when it is accompanied by action.

(1) – Love for the brethren:

- a. If we love God's people, we'll demonstrate that love by our interactions w/ them.
- b. If we love someone, we will not gossip about them.
- c. If we love someone, we will not envy them or speak evil of them.
- d. If we love someone, we will treat them as Christ as treated us.

(2) – Love for the lost

- a. If we love the lost, we will demonstrate that love by the way we interact w/ them.
- b. If we truly love them, we will not attack them. We'll share their need of salvation w/ empathy. If we love them, we will be kind to them, even when they hate us.

IV. Love's Impact on Us (1 John 3:19-20)

A. The benefit for us

1. When the Holy Spirit creates God's love in us towards others, it confirms we're saved.
2. We know God is at work in our lives when we're participating in the ministry to others
3. A great evidence of our relationship with Jesus is seeing people as He sees them.

B. If Our Heart Condemns Us

1. Even when the love of Jesus is at work in us, we may fail because our flesh is weak.
2. If offended, I might react in the flesh rather than in the Spirit.
3. In those times of sin and failure my heart (my conscience) condemns me.
4. Sinful failure may even cause a child of God to question their salvation.
5. But recognizing the love of God in our heart for others is evidence we belong to Him.
6. The fact that the love of Jesus is in my heart for the person is proof that I'm saved.