

The Love of God: “Love one another”

1 John

Over the last few weeks, we have seen the importance of God’s love towards us as we have looked at the first letter of John. The remarkable love of God our Father is lavished upon us in his Son’s life and death upon the cross. The Holy Spirit carries on the mission of God’s passion for creation by pouring the love of God into our hearts, even while we are still sinners.

This morning we will look at the importance of not only loving God but loving one another. True and genuine love for one another is foundationally a result of salvation. **1 Pet 1:22-23 - Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. We love one another because God first loved us.**

Love for one another is a primary evidence of Christianity:

1 John 3:10-11 - This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. 11 This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

Loving one another is a spiritual reality of being children of God. God’s love is poured into our hearts which in turn enables us to truly love fellow believers. It is this love of God in the heart of every believer that compels us to love God, our brothers and sisters in the faith and those who are yet to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour (**2 Cor 5:14-21**).

Loving one another is a demanded commandment:

1 John 3:23 - And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

This Scripture passage highlights two aspects; one being to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and secondly, to love one another. Believing in the Lord Jesus is spoken of in 1 John 4:1-6. We are told to test the spirits in order to clearly know God. We can believe and recognize the Spirit of God by knowing that Jesus has come in the flesh as the Son of God. As well, we must understand that we live in the world which has a contrary viewpoint to God. The Spirit of Truth is realized when we listen to God and his Word etc in contrast to those who live in the ways of the world and the spirit of falsehood.

Loving one another is a response to God loving us:

1 John 4:7-11 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

When we love one another we are like God. "Love is more than a characteristic of God; it is His character." And when we love we grow in character becoming more like God. Loving people is easier said than done. Love which is forgiving is a regular challenge we all face. ([Video](#))

A story tells of two friends who were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE." They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE." The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

The moral of the story is simply. We must learn to write our hurts in the sand and to carve our hallelujahs in stone.

Loving one another demonstrates God's existence:

1 John 4:12 - No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Our love has its starting place in God's love. The love of God reaches its fullest expression when we truly love one another. The way we treat one another reveals our faith in God. Here is a classic story of demonstrating God's love to another. See if you can figure out who this is referring to...

- In a supermarket, Kurt the stock boy was busily working when a new voice came over the intercom asking for a carry out at checkout register 4.

Kurt was almost finished, and wanted to get some fresh air, and decided to answer the call. As he approached the check-out stand a distant smile caught his eye, the new check out girl was beautiful. She was an older woman (maybe 26 and he was only 22) and he fell in love.

Later that day, after his shift was over, he waited by the punch clock to find out her name. She came into the break room, smiled softly at him, took her card and punched out, then left. He looked at her card, Brenda. He walked out only to see her start walking up the road.

Next day, he waited outside as she left the supermarket, and offered her a ride home. He looked harmless enough, and she accepted. When he dropped her off, he asked if maybe he could see her again, outside of work. She simply said it wasn't possible. He pressed and she explained she had two children and she couldn't afford a baby-sitter, so he offered to pay for the baby-sitter. Reluctantly she accepted his offer for a date for the following Saturday.

That Saturday night he arrived at her door only to have her tell him that she was unable to go with him. The baby-sitter had called and cancelled. To which Kurt simply said, "Well, let's take the kids with us." She tried to explain that taking the children was not an option, but again not taking no for an answer, he pressed.

Finally Brenda brought him inside to meet her children. She had an older daughter who was just as cute as a bug, Kurt thought, and then Brenda brought out her son, in a wheelchair. He was born a paraplegic with Down Syndrome. Kurt asked Brenda, "I still don't understand why the kids can't come with us?" Brenda was amazed. Most men would run away from a woman with two kids, especially if one had disabilities. Just like her first husband and father of her children did. That evening Kurt and Brenda loaded up the kids, went to dinner and the movies. When her son needed anything Kurt would take care of him. When he needed to use the rest room, he picked him up out of his chair, took him, brought him back. The kids loved Kurt. At the end of the evening, Brenda knew this was the man she was going to marry and spend the rest of her life with. A year later, they were married and Kurt adopted both of her children. Today they have seven kids total...

So what happened to the stock boy and check out girl? Well, Mr. & Mrs Kurt Warner, now live in St. Louis, where he is employed by the St. Louis Rams and plays quarterback.

In Conclusion:

Love for one another is a foundational expression of our love for God. It is not some good idea that God speaks to us about, but love is a command of Scripture. We must understand that we can only love others as we have experience the love of God personally.

- What does your love say about your commitment to God?
- What does your love for others reveal about your faith in God?