

Let's Love Each Other Like Jesus Loved Us

1st John 3:16-23

A. The Comparison – _____ (3:16)

1. By this we know love:

- His love was _____ – “He laid down”
- His love was _____ – “His life”
- His love was _____ – “for us”

2. By this we show love:

- Our love ought to be _____ – “we also ought to lay down”
- Our love ought to be _____ – “our lives”
- Our love ought to be _____ – “for the brethren”

* Reality when we don't love like Jesus: God's love is _____ (3:17)

3. By this we don't show love:

- Whoever “has”, “sees”, and “shuts up his heart” does not _____.
- If we are self-seeking, God's love does not _____ in us.
- When we don't love like Jesus, we reveal that we are not at the same time _____ in the God of love, because when we abide in Him, He abides in us, and we enjoy a life of intimacy whereby His love flows through us as we grow to be more like Him.

B. The Call to Action – _____ (3:18)

1. Who is included?

- “children” includes the _____, who are children of God
- “us” includes the _____, who the Apostle John, their teacher

2. What are we invited to avoid?

- _____ love – “in word or in tongue”

3. What are we invited to do?

- love _____ – “in deed and in truth”

*** Reality when we do love like Jesus: We confidently _____ God (3:19-22)**

1. Confidence is the _____ of loving like Jesus. (3:19)
 - “By this [loving like Jesus] we know we are of the truth” is a phrase that refers to confidence a child of God has that he or she is living in _____ with God.
 - See “truth” in 1 John 1:3, 1:6, 1:8, 2:4-6
 - “[by loving like we Jesus, we] assure our hearts before Him” – this phrase elevates from “know” to “assure” in order to stress the idea of _____.
2. When we feel guilty, drawing near to God is the _____. (3:20)
 - “if our hearts condemn us,” one of two things pricked our conscience:
 - If we sin, we have broken fellowship with God and our heart should condemn us – when this is the case, we are drawn to the God who “knows all things” and still loves us.
 - If we are honestly trying our best, but are unsure of ourselves, our heart may cause us to feel guilty even if we have not sinned – when this is the case, we are drawn to the God who “knows all things” and is pleased with our genuine, Spirit-wrought love, no matter how feeble we feel.
3. When we don’t feel guilt, we draw near, enjoying God’s fellowship. (3:21-22)
 - “we have confidence toward God” when we are loving like Jesus. This phrase is a perfect _____ of the instruction of 1 John 2:28.
 - abide in Him → love like Jesus → enjoy confidence before God
 - “whatever we ask we receive from Him” is not guarantee that we can have whatever we want, but a description of enjoying answers to prayer while we are _____ in Christ.
 - Answers to prayer happen “because we keep His commandments and do those things which are pleasing in His sight.”
 - Compare 1 John 5:14-15, John 15:7, Hebrews 4:12-16

C. The Reminder – _____ (3:23)

This is God’s will:

- “believe” on Christ is the _____.
- “love one another” is the _____ command for believers.
- “as He gave us commandment” – _____ stressed love for one another as the primary command for believers.