

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WALK IN LOVE

1 John 3:10-18, ESV – ¹⁰ *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

¹¹ *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.*

¹⁵ *Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

¹⁶ *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we were reminded that followers of Christ should live to love and provide. What does it mean to love and provide for one another?

2 How does loving and providing for others lead to unity in the church?

3 How can walking in love serve as a testimony to those who are not following Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **John 15:12-13, ESV** – ¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

James 2:15-16, ESV – ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

1 Peter 4:8-9, ESV – ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

4 In John 15:12, Jesus gives a commandment to love one another as He loved us. How did Jesus show love toward His followers? How does He show us love today? Who is He referring to when He says, “one another”?

5 Looking at the passages in James and 1 Peter, how should we live a life of generous giving? How is generous giving connected with walking in love?

6 What are spiritual gifts? What are your spiritual gifts? How have you used your gifts to love others?

B **Matthew 5:43-48, ESV** – ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

7 In the passage above, why does Jesus extend the command to “love your neighbor” to include our “enemies”?

8 How would you describe or identify a personal enemy? What about an enemy of the Gospel or the Church?

9 What are some practical ways that you can show love to those you consider to be enemies?

TAKING IT HOME

Walking in love involves giving of oneself entirely without self-interest. In other words, there is no thought of return, counting the cost, or weighing whether or not love is deserved. How are you doing with loving others this way? What is one thing you could do this week to improve in loving others? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to walk in love.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Luke 6:35

John 13:34-35

Romans 12:10, 13:8-10