



“The Family of God”

1 John 3:10-3:18

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Pastor John Foss

Question of the Day: *Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to love?*

I. John gives a very direct message of contrasts: either you are for _____ or for the _____. (v. 10)

- “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.” (Luke 11:23)
- There is no _____ ground or “on the fence” spirituality. Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6).
- Return to Him! Receive His love today! Welcome to the family of God! Love others as He has first loved you. (v. 11)

II. The lesson we learn from Cain and Abel (v. 12-15)

- Genesis 4:1-5. As they made an offering to God, Cain brought whatever he could find, Abel brought his best, the first fruits.
- Remember verse 13? “Don’t be surprised.” Be ready and aware. The more the _____ is shining in us the more the world will _____ it. (John 3:20)
- _____ brings resentment, hatred and jealousy. When we are in Christ, we can love others and be free from the game of comparison. We can love others as Jesus first loved us.

III. Lessons of love we learn from Jesus (v. 16-18)

- Jesus laid down his life for ours, for our good. Out of his love for sinners and all who rebelled, he gave his own life so we might have peace with God.
- “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. “(John 1:12)
- Real love has an element of _____ - _____. We have a choice to lay down things in our lives that are precious to us, for the sake of one another.

IV. To think and pray about as you apply God’s Word to your life:

- What does my commitment to God’s people say about my commitment to God Himself?
- Where does my heart look more like Cain’s heart than it does Christ’s heart?
- How does the love of Christ demonstrated to me empower me to love God’s children more deeply?
- What will it look like for me to lay down a real part of my life for the family of God?

Next Sunday...

Our series, “Anchored,” based on the book of 1 John, continues.

For next Sunday read

1 John 3:19-24: Assurance.

Self-sacrifice

Comparison

Light, hate

Neutral

God, devil

Answers: