

1Jn 09 - Disciples Love One Another 1Jn 3:11-18

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Last week we talked about "**LIVING OUT OUR FAITH**"
& it wasn't the First time we had talked about that in 1John

But we've got to remember, John writes this Epistle
in upward spirals, not linear thought

& so thru-out the book he returns
to the same subjects he's taught before

& he addresses them from a different perspective
or on a higher level "of the spiral" (*if you will*)

& so today - we return to the Requirement of
LOVE in the life of a Disciple

We've also been at this subject before - in **Ch 2:7-11**

But today - we return to the same subject of LOVE
but from a different "perspective" - or "higher level" - OK?

Let's Pray

We ended our Last Msg in **1Jn 3:10**
& **That** Vs actually introduces **This** text

In our last msg we talked about the difference between:

- 1) Making a practice out of **Living for God** - vs.
- 2) Making a practice out of **Living in Sin**

& we looked at what those different ways of living
may actually be pointing to in our lives

& then - in **1Jn 3:10 - 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.

& with that subtle verse (*like a Sledge-Hammer*)

John goes full-swing into **how**, & **why**, disciples are to LOVE

And he begins today by re-stating **WHY** love

is such a **critical TEST** of whether we are following Christ or not

1Jn 3:11 - ESV

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

The REASON that John is **so DIRECT** in **V.10** - when he says

the one who does not love his brother - is not of God . . .

is **BECAUSE** (as v.11 says)

this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

This is the **#1 basic ground rule** for following Christ

we are called to ***LOVE ONE ANOTHER***

It has **ALWAYS** been the **#1 Basic Ground Rule**

this is the message that [we] have heard from the beginning . . .

In John's **previous text** on LOVE - He said in **1Jn 2:7-8**

1Jn 2:7-8

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning . . .

8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you . . .

& in that Msg we showed how LOVE:

- 1) was The **OLD commandment** - back in the OT Law
- 2) was the **NEW commandment** - Jesus gave his Disciples

So - let's just review that NEW commandment
that Jesus gave His disciples - *which is US!!*

(TURN) Jn 13:34-35 - ESV

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: *just as* (in the same way) *I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

35 *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*"

BUT REALLY - For most of us, even before we
committed our lives to Christ

we **KNEW** that Loving One Another was
the foundational teaching for the followers of Jesus

Even before we were Christians - we **KNEW**
That **LOVE** - was supposed to be the Christian Way

There is a very good chance
that there is **NOT ONE PERSON** in this room today

who **DOESN'T** Know - that **LOVE**
is the supposed to be **the Foundation** of following Christ

But PLS - Don't Check Out !

Pls don't say - *Man, another msg on Love - DUH !!*
I know I'm supposed to LOVE . . .

Doesn't this guy have anything **NEW** to talk about ???

Listen - as politely as I can say it . . .

If you want to hear something **NEW**
you're going to have to go to **OPRAH WINFREY'S** church

But guys, as **Christians**, as followers of Jesus Christ

we desperately need - to *not only* **HEAR** again
How **Foundational** & **Critical** Loving one another is

But we need to **be moved** into a *Deeper Practice*
of True **CHRIST-LIKE** Love

& so here (vs's 10 & 11), John makes it very clear:

- 1) The one who **does not love** his brother is *not of God* (**V.10**)
 - 2) Our **Foundational Command is** - *Love one another* (**V.11**)
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Now, before we go One Vs further
there is a huge truth we MUST understand

We DON'T HAVE this KIND love in our own nature !!

We **saw this** SO CLEARLY in the movie **FIREPROOF**
that we saw here **last night** - Movie Night

If you have **NOT** seen this movie - **PLEASE SEE IT**
& **PLEASE** ask at the **info table** about signing up
for one of our **Discipleship classes** based on this movie

But - in this movie - the lead character
had **NO HOPE** of truly Loving his wife

until he accepted the fact
that he didn't have this **KIND** of love within himself

& when he (*finally*) **fully surrendered** his life to Jesus Christ . . .

God **POURED** this **KIND** of love **into** him,
so he could pour it **out** to his wife

Rom 5:5 says - ESV

5 . . . God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

THAT is **WHY** the test of LOVE is such a Great **test**
to **KNOW** if you are "***Living in Christ***"

If we are **exhibiting** God's Love
we can be confident we are ***Living in Christ***

However, if we are **NOT exhibiting** God's Love
then we need to be **CONCERNED**

& maybe we need to **TRULY Surrender** ourselves to **GOD**

& **ASK HIM** (continually)
to **POUR** His Love into our heart & into our life

Until we are so Transformed by His love
that it really begins to show

I think the NEED for us to see this in our lives
will get clearer & clearer as we continue

& so next, John is going to show us
what **NOT having** the Love of God looks like

1Jn 3:12 - ESV

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.

John uses Cain as his ***"What NOT to look like"*** example
& he says ***"do not be like Cain, who was of the evil one"***

Not meaning He was ***"Born from the evil one"***
The **AMP BIBLE** says he ***"got his motivation from the evil one"***

Because, as **Jn 8** says
the evil one was ***"a murderer from the beginning"***

& so v.12 Cont's - ***and [Cain] murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.***

Now watch closely, because John is going to use CAIN
as an EXAMPLE

of those who Live their Lives
OPPOSITE of the Love of God

In **Gen Ch 4** - Cain murdered Abel
Because Abel's sacrifice was Accepted - & Cain's was NOT

Heb 11 says Abel's sacrifice was made IN FAITH
implying that Cain's was not

So **CAIN**, who was **NOT** living in Faith,
developed a **HATE** toward his brother who **WAS** living in Faith

& **CAIN'S Hate** toward his brother
turned quickly to **murder**

& here John says; **DO NOT be like CAIN**
Do NOT harbor HATE in your heart

Because the evil one will **USE IT to Motivate you**

& the results will be the **OPPOSITE**
of seeing the **Love of God** in your life

& So - before John continues the main teaching

he adds an important **1 Verse TANGENT** here about
CAIN being an **Example** of those **without faith** in the World

In 1Jn 3:13 he says - ESV

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

John says in Vs's 12-13 together;

. . . why did [Cain] murder [Abel]? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. [SO] Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

Those who's deeds are **evil**

HATE those whose deeds are **righteous**

So **quit being Shocked** that the World, whose deeds are evil
hate's those who's deeds are righteous

That has been True since CAIN & ABEL
so let's NOT continue to be surprised by it

HOWEVER - that is not the **primary teaching** here

The Primary teaching in 1John is;

HOW do we know - that we **HAVE** Eternal Life ?

& v.14 gives us another great way to know

1Jn 3:14 - ESV

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

MAN - sometimes the Bible is just TOO CLEAR, isn't it ?

Now again - Like all of the verses of this "type" in 1John -
the word LOVE here - is in the **PRESENT ACTIVE TENSE**

MEANING - ***We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we [are making an on-going PRACTICE of] loving the brothers.***

& then the **CONVERSE** - ***Whoever [is] not [making an on-going PRACTICE of] love abides in death.***

& so **the CHALLENGE** is;

What is the "**On-Going Practice**" in YOUR life ?

Are you more & more **making a practice** of Christ-Like Love? or
Are you more & more **NOT loving** as Christ loved?

The answer to that question should help you decide
if you have been truly Born-Again in Christ

See, we are supposed to have DIED to our CAIN-Like nature,
the nature that hates, leading to murder

& then we are to be Born-Again in the Christ-Like nature
the nature that Loves AS Jesus loved

& so - This is a TEST to know whether the Life of Christ
is actually ruling your life, or not

But maybe you would say - ***HEY WAIT JUST A MINUTE***

Just because I have Extreme Hostility (*which is the definition of hate*)
toward someone

**That doesn't mean I'm a Murderer
or that I don't have Eternal Life in me**

Well - I'm not saying that if your "struggling"
with that extreme hostility - that this is true

I'm not saying that if you're surrendering
that Extreme Hostility to the Lord more & more - that this is true

But if your life is MADE-UP of Extreme Hostility
toward others - especially believers

Then there's a pretty good chance you need
to Truly Surrender your Life to Jesus Christ

& Truly be Born-Again in the New Nature of Christ

1Jn 3:15 - ESV

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

John **connects** HATING with **murder** here

Just like **Jesus** did in the **Sermon on the Mount** (Mat 5)

But what really needs to be seen is this;

John leaves NO middle road here

He connects "**Not loving**" in V.14;

to **Hating** & **Murder** in V.15

& he says - the end result is the same for all;

Not Loving - **Hating** - **Murder** . . .

ALL point to a NEED to get right with God

To **DIE** to the OLD **Cain-Like** Nature

& be Born-again to the NEW **Christ-Like** Nature . . . Amen?

SO - John has made it clear - what it looks like

if we are **NOT living** in Christ-Like Love

Now he makes it clear what it look like

when we **ARE Living** in Christ-Like Love

1Jn 3:16 - ESV

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.

By THIS we know - what the Love of Christ **looks like**

Jesus Christ Laid down his life for us - As our supreme example

Jesus Christ put US before Himself
He Sacrificed His Life for the Benefit of our lives

& then - **V.16** says

. . . ***and [so] we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.***

Jn 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.

Now - in order to make this very PRACTICAL

This word "LAY DOWN" can also be translated "SET ASIDE"

So before you say; *Well I don't have the opportunity to GIVE my life for someone else*

Let me say; YES !! - You actually DO

Every time you Sacrificially SET ASIDE your life
for the good of another - You are Loving AS Jesus Loved

AS LONG AS *your motivation* is RIGHT !

You CANNOT say; OK, I'll set my life aside *in THIS area*,
as long as it gets me something *in THAT area*

Guys, that's NEGOTIATION - that is NOT Christ-Like Love

But when you Set Aside your own life, your own RIGHTS
your own OPINIONS, & your own FEELINGS

& you truly Love AS Jesus Loved . . .

THEN - You can be assured
that the Love of God is being Poured into you

Here is the Correct MOTIVATION for this Kind of Love

The Motivation **CANNOT** be - to Benefit yourself
The Motivation **MUST** be - to Glorify God

When Jesus Christ Laid Down His life for YOUR Benefit
it was actually - to Glorify GOD

& THAT must be our Motivation when we Love . . .
to Sacrifice ourselves, in order to Glorify GOD

So . . . Let's see if we can come up with a practical example . . .
How about ***IN THE NEXT VS***

1Jn 3:17 - ESV

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?

This is about as Practical as it gets

The "world's goods" means
the things it takes to get by in this world

BROTHER here means (in its highest use) Fellow Believer

This entire text has actually referred **Epecially**
to FELLOW BELIEVERS

(Gal 6:10) - ***let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.***

Guys - if we see a brother or sister IN NEED
& we have the ability to help MEET that NEED

& we - as V.17 says - ***Close our heart against them . . .
how does God's love abide in us?***

The True Love of God - If it is truly Abiding in us

Will cause us to **SET ASIDE** our own lives
for the **Benefit** of the lives of others
to the **GLORY of GOD**

Maybe that's **Financial**
Maybe it's **Time & Service**
Maybe it's **Spiritual Benefit**

But the Love of Christ is **SACRIFICIAL** to US
BENEFICIAL to OTHERS
& **GLORIFYING** to GOD

AND . . . it CAN BE SEEN - it's Tangible

1Jn 3:18 - ESV

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

If it's ALL Talk - & NO Walk
we should be concerned !

We must Sacrificially Love in DEED & TRUTH

GIVING ourselves to OTHERS (Especially other believers)
For the GLORY of GOD

& IF we can see this Love INCREASINGLY in our Lives
we know that we are truly *Living in Christ*

& really - if we CAN'T see this KIND of Love
we really need to DO SOMETHING about it

We need to Surrender our lives to God
Spend time with Him every day
& continually Come to Him to Transform our lives

& THEN - we've got to start "Giving ourselves away"

Christians live FAR TOO MUCH - For themselves

& as much as we are living solely to Please Ourselves
in that area we are definitely NOT Living to Please God

The Love of Christ is a Sacrificial Love
extended for the Glory of God

& So if we're NOT Sacrificing something in our lives
for the Glory of God

We need to be challenged to ask ourselves WHY ?

& then - we need to make it right with God
& with those God has put in our lives

The book of 1John is an incredible Challenge

to grow deeper in Christ
& to be more & more transformed into His image

John's desire is NOT to make you
question or doubt your salvation (unless you need to)

These texts are great challenges
for us to be more TRANSFORMED
for us to LOVE more & more AS Christ loved us

These challenges move us CLOSER to Christ
make us more LIKE Christ
& allow us to SEE Christ more & more clear in our lives

& THAT is what gives us more & more confidence
that we have truly SURRENDERED our lives to Christ . . .

that He truly IS our Lord
& that we truly HAVE Eternal Life . . . Amen ?

Let's Pray