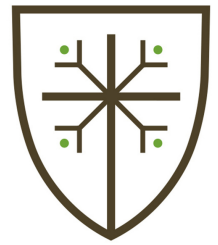


SERMON NOTES



October 2, 2022

SERMONS ON FIRST JOHN

Reasons to Stay

All Saints Presbyterian Church

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Reasons to Stay: Christian Love

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Genesis 3:14-15; 4:1-10
1 John 3:11-18; 4:7-9, 12
John 13:1-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you experienced the costs of exercising Christian love?
2. What are some ways both individually and as a church that we can practice "loving in deed and in truth?"

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week's sermon focused on the thing for which John may be most famous... love. Tim discussed three points about love: first, the necessity of love; second, the alternative to love; and third, the cost of love.

For at least several decades in our culture, love has been defined as a feeling. And, as we've seen in this sermon series, for the world, feelings dictate actions and even identity. For the Christian, our identity is given to us. We are born again into the family of God. Those who share one family, share a familial likeness. Love is that familial likeness for those who have been born of God. Love is a necessity because it is the mark of the family of God. And those who are born of God become like God.

John contrasts love to murder, specifically using the example of Cain murdering his brother, Abel. He says that Cain was *of the evil one*, he belonged to the evil one and thus was marked not by love but by its alternative, murder. Tim used the illustration of the pornography industry. Our culture and the broad acceptance of pornography betrays both a trivialization and elevation of sex to a place it is not supposed to be. Pornography is taking someone's life in exchange for another's pleasure - in other words, it is murder. John says anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. Apart from God's intervention, we are all Cain.

Finally, love always comes with a cost. Someone always sacrifices. And, in our case, God has paid. Our gospel reading from John 13 shows Jesus washing his disciples feet. He sinks as low as necessary in order to wash off the dirt and grime. As participants in that love, we too are called to sacrifice, to pay a cost. Rejection by the world is a cost of Christian love. It is costly to stay near to Jesus. But as we exercise God's love, put it into practice, it grows and "is perfected in us."