



ZEAL FOR THE BRETHREN

Lesson Title: Zeal For The Brethren

Key Verses: 1 John 3:16-19 (NKJV)

Summary

The sermon emphasizes the importance of loving fellow believers with a sacrificial, action-driven love, mirroring the love of Christ, amidst the world's troubles and uncertainties. It encourages believers to actively engage in their church community and extend love beyond the church to demonstrate God's transformative power.

Key Takeaways

1. We are called to love our fellow believers (the brethren) with agape love, which is sacrificial and action-oriented.
2. Loving the brethren is God's command and helps us remain steadfast in difficult times.
3. Demonstrating this love distinguishes God's children from the world and can draw others to Christ.
4. Our love for the brethren should mirror Christ's sacrificial love for us.
5. Loving the brethren doesn't mean we should hate the world; we should still love those outside the church.

Important Mentions

1. Types of Love: The sermon distinguishes between phileo (brotherly affection) and agapao (self-sacrificing love). Agapao is emphasized as the type of love believers must exhibit.
2. Reasons to Love: Believers are commanded to love others because God commanded it, and because this love settles the spirit, creates unity, and distinguishes God's children from the world.
3. Practical Application: Practical steps include making sacrifices for others, such as offering resources, time, and support, and participating actively in church life and fellowship.
4. Overcoming Pitfalls: The sermon warns against potential pitfalls like church hurt, materialism, and failing to match words with actions. Believers are encouraged to repent if these issues are present.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the sermon's distinction between phileo (brotherly love) and agape (sacrificial love) change your understanding of what it means to love fellow believers?
2. How can we balance loving the brethren within the church while also showing Christ's love to those outside the faith?
3. What are some specific actions we can take to intentionally carve out time for fellowship and discipleship in our busy schedules?
4. In what ways might loving the world's pleasures too much hinder our ability to love the brethren?
5. What excuses do you find yourself making that prevent you from fully engaging with and loving your church community?

Practical Applications (pick one for this week)

1. Commit to joining or leading **a small group** if you haven't already.
2. **Reflect** on areas where you might be holding back from fully engaging with your church community due to fear, hurt, or other reasons. **Pray** for God's help in overcoming these barriers.
3. **Examine** your life for ways you might be loving "the world" more than the brethren, and consider how to rebalance your priorities.?