Love Your Neighbor Markers, 1 John 3 First Christian Church—February 5, 2017 Chuck Foreman, Teaching/Missions Pastor

Lost in plain sight...

We can get lost even when the right path is right there in front of us. We don't even realize we're lost because we haven't paid attention to the markers God has placed along the way to keep us on the right path—his path.

<u>Big Idea:</u> John is concerned that his spiritual children judge correctly between true and deceptive messages and that they are living like Jesus, not just knowing about him and talking about him. So he gives them some markers by which to evaluate both themselves and others.

GOD's Story – Markers, 1 John 3

- 1. We are Children of God! So what? (3:1-3)
 - We shall be like him, 1 Corinthians 15:14b-58
- 2. Don't be led astray—Judge the message by the messenger. (3:4-10)
 - He appeared to take away our sins... (vs. 5)
 - He appeared to destroy the devil's work— of deception... (vs. 8)
 - What we do and say as Christians is what makes our message believable or not.
- 3. The original message is still *the* message—Love one another. (3:11-15)
 - The marker of new life from God in us is love for others flowing out of us. Is it in you?
- 4. What does love look like? (3:16-18)
- 5. How to have confidence before God... (3:19-24)
 - We can't do any of this on our own... 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called Children of God! And that is what we are! And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Is his Spirit living in you? Is his love flowing out of you?

Right On!