

John 2:7-18

Are you loving others?

1. We need to understand what it looks like to love another

vines

“Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God.

Patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope.”

Thayers

To be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be long-suffering, slow to anger, slow to punish.

envy

the pain or frustration caused by another person having something that one doesn't have

Bob Claycamp

two kinds of people.

“Those who are always thinking of what life owes them and those who never forget what they owe to life”

William Barclay

"Love never flies into a temper. The real meaning of this is that Christian love never becomes exasperated with people. Exasperation is always a sign of defeat. When we lose our tempers, we lose everything."

Life application commentary

Believers who love are active and steadfast in their faith. They hold on, no matter what difficulties they face. Hardship and pain do not stop love. When believers persevere, they face suffering within the body. They face persecution. They hang on when the going gets tough.

They strive to save their marriages despite disappointment, to continue to trust God despite setbacks, and to continue to serve God despite fear or sorrow. When believers truly persevere, nothing can stop them.

2. My ability to love others is directly connected with my spiritual growth

LABC

John was writing to every believer in the church—his dear children who had experienced forgiveness through Jesus. Some were mature in the faith and had a long-standing relationship with Christ. Others had struggled with Satan's temptations and had won. Still others had learned about Christ and were just beginning their spiritual journey.

Every person in the church needs to grow in Christ and to love every other person in the church. As children learn about Christ, they grow in their ability to win battles over temptation. As young adults move from victory to victory, they grow in their relationship with Christ. Older adults, having known Christ for years, have developed the wisdom needed to teach young people and start the cycle all over again.

John then warned the believers against worldliness, for one cannot love God and also love the world.

3. Is my love for Jesus or the world?

a. Our love for one another flows out of our love of Jesus

b. **Voddie Baucham**

No matter how good things get in this world, it's all Egypt! There will never be enough gold chains, fine linen, praise, adoration or anything else to satisfy the yearning that God has placed in us. Only His presence in the land of promise will satisfy His people

c. You can be drawn into a love of the world through 3 areas

Lust of the flesh

The earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God. (Thayers Greek Definitions)

is a craving or passion for something that satisfies the desires of your old nature

It is an intense, unrestrained craving to satisfy some appetite of your body

Lust of the eyes

craving to satisfy some appetite of your soul.

Pride of life

Boasting of what one has and does