

We Know

1 John 3:11-23

The train on the rails has to go where the rails have been laid. (Righteousness & Love)

Sawhorse or tetter totter

Throughout the New Testament and most certainly the portion of Scripture we are studying today, great stress is laid on love as the preeminent Christian virtue.

THE HIGHEST CALLING

- The first fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
- Sign of the reality of faith (Galatians 5:6) *faith working through love*
- The highest and eternal of faith, hope, love (1 Cor. 13:2,8,13)
- Evidence of New life in Christ (1 John 3:14)

1 John 3:14a We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.

The critic may ask... how do you know you are a new creation in Christ?

Besides your theology, besides the fact that you say you have to believe, or have faith?

How do you know a caterpillar turns into a butterfly?

We know that we have passed from death to life by the **increase of experienced compassion and the observable acts of love/care (14)**

Prefer others above yourself, most people will experience that before they read it.

The apostle John identifies three areas of confirmation or confident understanding.

The devil loves to cast a shadows of doubt over the work God is doing in our lives but the Lord brings in that marvelous light of joyous confidence that He is ours and we are His.

Key Word - KNOW:

Ginosko: Learn to know, come to know, perceive, gain a knowledge of. To understand.

Wise men "saw" His star

Jesus was walking along the shores of Galilee He "saw" Siman and Andrew.

Matthew 21:44 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they **perceived** that He was speaking of them.

Three areas of confirmed, confident, absolute assurance.

- We know love (16)
- We know that we are of the truth (19)
- We know that He abides in us (24)

We know that we have passed from death to life (14)

What does he mean, passed from death to life?

Here lays David Ax, guilty of selfish ambition, simmering anger, unforgiveness. Cause of death? Identifying with Christ and by faith has received the cross.

Romans 6:5-6 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, **that our old** man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Desire for something genuine... print vs. original. (new puppy vs. old dog.)
So many versions of love now... how do we know we have the right one?

How do we *know* love?

- Love = NOT an optical allurements or physical attraction
- Love = NOT an excitement/adrenaline/butterflies
- Love = NOT an obsession/I think about it all the time
- Love == a deep appreciation for who someone is at their core and a willingness to sacrifice for no apparent reason and no promise of return.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

The cross was not just an expression of God's love, it is also an example of how we are to love one another.

An interesting example is drawn from an account in the OT.

Joke: *How long was Cain angry with his brother... as long as he was able.*

Cain and Able: The sincerity of our worship to God will directly impact the quality of our relationship with people.

- Cain's works were evil (evil worship)
- Abel's works were righteous (right worship)

Side note on hate: The very root issue that leads us to hate someone is the same root that would lead you to murder them. Hate is just the root system that grows the ability to commit some pretty atrocious sins against humanity.

Just because you change the emblem on a car, does not make it a new car.

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

There is a second story told here... this story also includes some dying... but rather than the bad guy killing the good, it was the good guy dying for the bad.

[We know love \(16\)](#)

Agape - Love: affection, good will, benevolence, love feasts.

No sloppy agape

Not a concept only but a reality

(17) has this worlds goods, sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart...

HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM.

Q: How would Jesus respond to the need that is before me?

Not what is the right answer, what is the Christ answer?

Healing on the sabbath – Are you so righteous that you are not loving?

Proverbs 3:28 Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,” when you have it with you.

Socialism is from Satan.

- If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- Widows who are really widows (1 Timothy 5:16)

James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

(18) not in word or tongue but in deed and truth.

Proverbs 25:14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.

Compassion is care with action

There is a biblical expectation that we let our needs be known and care for each other even more than we care for the non-believer.

By this we know that we are of the truth (19)

Truth: not delusional, mislead, or wrong.

Broad is the way that leads to destruction and many are on it.

When you **know what God knows**... you can be CONFIDENT!

I am not confident because I like my opinion or have been swayed by a set of values. God is right... so I'll go with that.

If our heart condemns us... assurance towards God.

There are so many commandments, what do we do?

Don't go back to the Law!

(23) – sounds like the greatest commandment to me

Love one another – as I have loved you, love one another

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

(No team jersey, no logo or motto we chant, it's our love.)

Do you know how much easier life gets when we love like Christ?

Costs a bit more, but it weighs a lot less.

Forgiveness is expensive but far less heavy than the burden of resentment

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us reason together,”

Says the LORD,

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.