

LOVE THE CHURCH CORPORATELY & INDIVIDUALLY

Sunday, September 25, 2021 -- 1st JOHN series -- Msg 18 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1st JOHN 3:11-18

English Standard Version (ESV)

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another**. **12** We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because **we love the brothers**. Whoever does not love abides in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 **By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers**. **17** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

REVIEW:

- 1) **FIRST JOHN** is all about true, genuine, saving FAITH versus fake, self-deceived RELIGION.
- 2) The true church has always maintained that God's Word clearly sets forth basic standards of BELIEF and BEHAVIOR as **necessary marks of genuine, saving faith**.
Do you believe the words of Christ? Do you obey the words of Christ?
- 3) **FIRST JOHN** presents multiple TESTS by which one can evaluate if they have true, saving faith.
- 4) **FIRST JOHN** helps the children of God not to be deceived along with the children of the devil.
- 5) **FIRST JOHN** teaches Christ's commands so we can better obey them and walk with Him.
- 6) **KEY OBSERVATIONS of 1 John 3:11-18**

John's Repeating themes surface again:

vs 11 False teachers haven't changed the Gospel message. Christ's people love one another.

vs 12 Some who come to worship God are of the devil... see Cain! (Gen. 4:1-16; Heb. 11:4)

vs 11, 14, 16 True Christians love others, specifically other Christians.

vs 12, 14, 15 Fake Christians say they love God but have hate for His people.

vs 16-18 True Christians don't just say it, but do it.

vs 16 Do you want to know what true love is? See Christ!

REMEMBER: Christ commands that we love the Church 'corporately' and 'individually'.

'corps' (pronounced 'core') = body (think 'corpse', 'US Marine Corps')

- corporate worship refers to all of us worshipping (the church body is worshipping)
- corporate prayer refers to all of us praying (the church body is praying together)
- corporate singing refers to all of us singing (the church body is singing together)

In this passage we see the command to love both the church body AS A WHOLE and the church body AS INDIVIDUALS.

Ephesians 5:25

...Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

1 Peter 1:22

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

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WHY Should Christians Love One Another Corporately and Individually?

1) Because God commands it.

Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31; John 13:34; 15:12, 17; 1 John 3:11, 18; 4:7-11; 4:20; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8; Romans 12:10; Romans 13:8; 1 Thess. 3:12; 4:9; and many others!

2) Because this shows the radical reality of our new nature in Christ.

1 John 5:1

"Everyone who loves the Father loves whomever has been born of him."

Ephesians 4:17-32

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18** They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20** **But that is not the way you learned Christ!**— **21** assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, **for we are members one of another**. **26** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and give no opportunity to the devil. **28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. **29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you**.

3) Because this strengthens and confirms the faith of those we love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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WHY Should Christians Love One Another Corporately and Individually?

- 4) Because when we love one another the **glory of Christ** is displayed, because He is the one who enables us to live this way.

Ephesians 4:32 (and 1 John 3:16)

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

- 5) Because when we love one another this **lures the world** to love God and see His love in Christ.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

HOW Can Christians Love One Another Corporately and Individually?

- 1) **Join the Church** -- **commit** and **submit** yourself.

(This has to do with your will.)

Covenant membership is a decision and a devotion.

- 2) **Embrace the Church** -- **open** and **engage** your heart.

(This has to do with your heart.)

Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. **7** It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. **8** For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Covenant membership is an affection and a joy.

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HOW Can Christians Love One Another Corporately and Individually?

3) Serve in the Church --

(This has to do with your hands.)

1 John 3:18

18 *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

Covenant membership is a calling and a duty.

4) Support the Church --

(This has to do with your stewardship of life.)

God has given you many resources... time, talents, gifts, money, possessions, experiences, etc.

Covenant membership is a responsibility and opportunity.

PRACTICAL WAYS You Can LOVE THE BROTHERS:

1) Be present.

-- Whenever we meet for worship.

-- When we meet for fellowship.

-- Come early. At the very least, be on time.

It's divine to be on time;

It's a mistake to be late.

-- Stay late. Don't run away.

If you are a runner -- ask yourself, 'Why do I do that?'

2) Build relationships.

Cultural Christians are either interested in no relationships or shallow relationships.

Biblical Christians are genuinely concerned about others and come to love them.

We emphasize getting to know one another in every setting.

We care for one another in Community Groups.

We work together in sustaining our worship, our ministries and missions.

We pray for one another and support one another.

3) Serve in various ministries both internal and external to the church.

SHCS, Hope Women's Centers, Prison Ministry, Life in Messiah, Special projects, Campus Care Days, Biblical Counseling, Men's and Women's studies, Local Mission projects, Global Mission projects etc.

iSERVE TEAMS: Hosting, Ushering, Greeting, Security, Media, Logistics, Facilities, Finance, Music, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Member Care,

KEY QUESTIONS:

1) *HOW MUCH* does Christ love the Church? How does He prove it?

2) *HOW MUCH* do you love the church? Is there biblical evidence of that?