

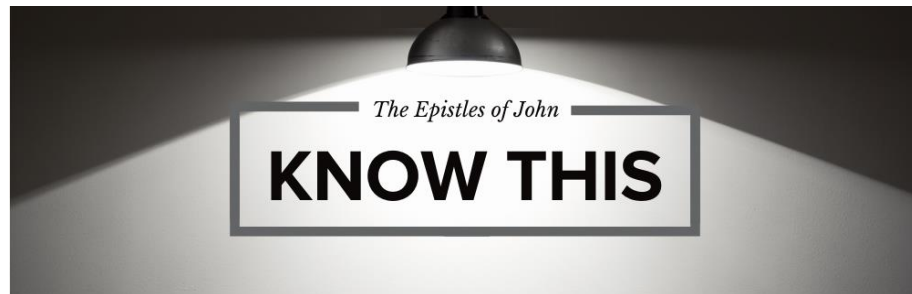


Pray

How does 1 John 3:11-18 inspire you to pray?
Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray
for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



Who Do You Love? | 1 John 3:11-18

Study Guide 9 for sermon on 2/28/2021



Introduction

It's easy to love those who love us back. But 1 John 3:11-18 calls us to receive and reflect the love of God, displayed through Jesus. Because we've been transformed by the power of the gospel, we love others with generosity.

When was the last time your compassion for others led you to make a real sacrifice? The gospel compels us to love those who are different from us, those who are in need, and to live with sacrificial compassion. We'd all agree this sounds good. But actually living this way is risky, uncomfortable, and difficult.



Overview

Context: 1 John 3:11-18 captures the essence of the entire book of 1 John. He continues to emphasize the centrality of the love of God, displayed through Jesus Christ, as the foundation for Christian living.

Structure:

- I. Statement of 1 John's central message (v. 11)
- II. Contrast between Christians & the world (vv. 12-15)
- III. The Christians' foundation (vv. 16-18)



Engage

1. How does 1 John 3:11 describe the primary message of his letter?
2. What are some other verses in 1 John that emphasize Christians' calling to love one another?
3. John provides a negative example in verse 12 as a warning about what an unloving and evil life looks like. Discuss why you think John used this person as an example.
4. Hate is a strong word. When verse 13 says "Do not be surprised if the world hates you," what do you think that means?
5. How do verses like Matthew 5:10-12 and John 15:19-20 help us be prepared to endure persecution with grace and love, rather than growing bitter or angry?
6. This section specifically focuses on loving our "brother or sister" (fellow Christians). Do you think this gives us license to ignore other biblical commands (like Matthew 5:46) to love our enemies?
7. Verse 14 makes a strong statement that "The one who does not love remains in death." Combine this with Matthew 5:46 and discuss the implications this carries for the ways we treat those who are different from us?
8. Discuss the relationship between love and compassion. How does verse 17 help us understand this question?
9. What does verse 18 help us understand the relationship between faith and works in the Christian's life?
10. Reflect upon where this calling to love in truth and in action require the most heart-work and real-world sacrifice for you?