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1 JOHN

[Bridge: Matt Redman & Brandon Lake]

This is what living looks like

This is what freedom feels like

This is what heaven sounds like

We praise You, we praise You

### Chapter 03:14-24

## THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

### I. INTRODUCTION

A. We are back in our study of **1John chapter 3** this morning.

B. In our last teaching – Pastor Dan did a great job clarifying the identity of a Christian:

1. God's kids **should be** easy to identify.

a) **Joh 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**"

(1) John was there at that last supper when Jesus said these things.

b) Jesus also said, **Mat 6:21-24 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.****

(1) So, John is saying if we love Him – there will evidence of that love.

(2) And as a result – we will not be understood by the those who do not love the Lord.

(a) They hated Jesus because they did not understand Him – and they will not understand us - for the same reasons.

(b) So this morning, we continue on with the topic of love and how it fits in the life of a Christian.

II. **1JN 3:14-15 WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN. HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER ABIDES IN DEATH. 15 WHOEVER HATES HIS BROTHER IS A MURDERER, AND YOU KNOW THAT NO MURDERER HAS ETERNAL LIFE ABIDING IN HIM.**

A. There are some folks who believe that you cannot know for sure if you are going to heaven!

1. They believe that there will be some kind of “cosmic” weights and measuring system and if you have done more good than bad – then you will get in.

2. But John is saying that **we can “know” that we have passed from death to life** and one of those “identifiers” is whether we love our Christian brothers and sisters. No love – no life!
- a) John even equates hatred for a Christian brother or sister – as murder!
- (1) Jesus even says in **Mat 5:21-22** **"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.**
- (a) You see Jesus was teaching His disciples on the Mount of Beatitudes and he told them, **Mat 5:20** **For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**
- (i) The Scribes and the Pharisees were all about the Law so they thought if they didn't actually commit the murder they could hate as much as they wanted!
- (ii) Jesus corrects that by saying you can have murder in your heart without committing the act.
- (a) Once again – the Lord deals with the heart!
- (b) But isn't that what **Mathew 6** is really talking about when it said you can't serve 2 masters?
- (c) When it said **Mat 6:21** **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**
- (i) So, John is saying that the “evidence of our salvation is our love for the Lord and for each other!

**III. 1JN 3:16-18 BY THIS WE KNOW LOVE (THIS IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE), BECAUSE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US. AND WE ALSO OUGHT TO LAY DOWN *OUR* LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN. 17 BUT WHOEVER HAS THIS WORLD'S GOODS, AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED, AND SHUTS UP HIS HEART FROM HIM, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM? 18 MY LITTLE CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE IN WORD OR IN TONGUE, BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH. (FROM THE GIVER – NOT THE BEGGAR)**

- A. As you know the Greeks had 3 words for love and I am confident that Americans have MANY different meanings for the word love!
1. We love ice cream, we love our pets, we love our rest, we love our vacations, we love conveniences, we love our favorite TV shows, and we even love our children and our spouses.
- a) We love our first child so intently that we think we could never love the next one as much, but we find that we love the next one and the next one – just as much!
- (1) And all the “loves” that I just mentioned – carries with them – different meanings.
- (a) But John tells us exactly what kind of love he is talking about.
- (i) It is the kind that led Jesus to the cross and held Him

there.

- (a) **Joh 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**
- (b) Genuine Christian love is sacrificial and “others focused”: **1Co 13:4-7 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**
- (b) John gives us a very practical application in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.
- (c) And then he tells us that it is easy to “say that we love” – (word and tongue) – but it needs to be carried out in “deed” and in “truth”.

**IV. 1JN 3:19 AND BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH, AND SHALL ASSURE OUR HEARTS BEFORE HIM.**

- A. Do you see the 2 words there “know” and “assure”?
  - 1. John is saying when you and I see Christians genuinely loving each other – we can be sure “who their daddy is”.
    - a) And please notice John’s next statement about our God’s wonderful grace!

**V. 1JN 3:20-21 FOR IF OUR HEART CONDEMNS US, GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEART, AND KNOWS ALL THINGS. 21 BELOVED, IF OUR HEART DOES NOT CONDEMN US, WE HAVE CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD.**

- A. So ...what if we have heard this message this morning and find ourselves saying, “Man, I am not very giving, and I am very selfish.” What if our heart condemns us this morning?
  - 1. John is saying that, God is greater than our heart!
    - a) In other words – He can change all that if we will just let him. If we will give Him half-a-chance, He will turn those old selfish-hardened hearts into something He can use for His glory.
    - b) And that condemnation we use to feel will go away.
      - (1) And when our heart DOES NOT condemn us – we have confidence in the things of the Lord.
      - (2) Look it is this way – if we have wronged someone or owe them money or sinned against them in some way – it is hard to face them.
        - (a) But when we get that cleared up – the confidence returns.

**VI. 1JN 3:22 AND WHATEVER WE ASK WE RECEIVE FROM HIM, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS**

## COMMANDMENTS AND DO THOSE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.

- A. J. Vernon McGee says, *“Love in action gives assurance in prayer. When your life is pleasing to God, you can expect Him to hear and answer your prayer.”* (e-sword bible commentary)
1. Now this does not violate **Jas 4:3** **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.**
  2. Or **1Jn 5:14** **Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**
    - a) What it DOES mean is that if we are walking in the Spirit – with love as the evidence of that – the prayers that we ask of Him will be in accordance with His will, and He will grant those requests.

## VII. CONCLUSION

- A. **1Jn 3:23-24** **And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**
1. There is that wonderful word “abides” again!
    - a) **Joh 15:4-5** **Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**
    - b) We CAN do this as long as we abide instead of strive!

**1 Corinthians 13:1–13 (NKJV) — 1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. **4** Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never fails. But whether *there are prophecies*, they will fail; whether *there are tongues*, they will cease; whether *there is knowledge*, it will vanish away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. **13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.