



LOVE WITH ACTIONS

1John 3:11-24

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Overview

- **3:11-19: How we know what love is**
- **3:19-24: Believe and love**

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- **1:5: “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light...”**
- **3:11: “This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”**

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- **v.12: “Do not be like Cain...”**
 - **Genesis 4: Cain and Abel**
 - **Cain murdered Abel, archetype of a sinner**

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- v.15: “Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer.”
- Sermon on the Mount: “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’” (Matthew 5:21)
- **Vicious cycle:** anger festers and grows, outbursts that land us into trouble

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- v.12: “And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.”
- Cain is acting like “the world”
 - “...a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and a pride in our achievements and possessions” (2:16)
- “...those who do not do what is right hate those who do.” - Karen H. Jobes

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- v.16: “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”
- Imitate Jesus

3:11-18: How we know what love is

John 15:12-17: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

This is my command: Love each other.

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- John 10:11: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
 - Not necessarily die, but care for needs, even when there is personal risk
 - “...material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need...” (v.17)
 - Motivated by the love of God in us (v.17)

3:11-18: How we know what love is

- v.17: “Dear children let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

3:19-24: Believe and love

- Reassurance
 - “This is how we know that we belong to the truth...” (v.19)
 - God is bigger, greater, and in control (v.20)

3:19-24: Believe and love

- v.23: “And this is [God’s] command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”
 - Two commands as one - indispensable connectedness
- v.24: “The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.”
 - Spiritual discernment

3:19-24: Believe and love

- **Colossians 2:6:** “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him...”
 - Believe and abide/follow his ways - indispensable connectedness
- **1 John 3:23:** "...believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us."
- **Belief and love - indispensable connectedness**

Takeaways...

- We are invited to believe in Jesus Christ
 - “come and see” - John 1:39
- Love one another with our actions
 - Deal with our anger
 - Use our material possessions to care for the needs of those in our community

Takeaways...

Acts 2:42-47: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Takeaways...

Acts 2:42-47: They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.