



1 John

# Lavish Love

**Love Demonstrated!**

**1 John 3:10-24**

Message #7 of 10 – S713

**Sermon given on November 13, 2016**



**Sunday Morning Service**

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# Love Demonstrated!

## 1 John 3:10-24

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 John 3**
- Today, we continue our series **Lavish Love**
- Well, it was an eventful week
- I can't imagine that there are a lot of people who were expecting the election to turn out the way it did
- We need to take just a moment and talk about how we as Christians ought to respond to the results of this election
- We live in a nation and time that is emotionally charged, and divided on many different fronts; race, nationality, gender, sexual identity, constitutional rights, and others
- And if you are watching the news and social media, you can easily see that emotions are running wild; sadness, anger, frustration, and others
- I am not surprised by the things the world is doing and saying
- I do not expect people that do not have Christ to act like Christ
- The question is, how should we as Christians, people who say that Christ is our Lord and King, how should we respond to all that is going on?
- This week I have been saddened and embarrassed by what I have read from Christians
- We should be different from the rest of the world
- The only way the world is going to see Jesus in this darkness is for you to let your light shine – they need to see love demonstrated
- And you can't do that if you are acting just like the world
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 John 3:10-24**
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **Love Demonstrated!**

- People have justified writing awful things about others by saying, “It’s the truth!”
- That may be true, but is there grace, mercy, and love being expressed
- Paul said in Ephesians 4 ‘speak the truth in love’
- And he said in **Colossians 4:5-6**

**Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.**

- The unbelieving world is spewing hate at unprecedented levels
  - We shouldn’t be pouring gasoline on the fire **Proverbs 15:1-2**
- A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.**
- Let’s be wise and demonstrate love
  - So far in John’s epistle, we have learned that God loves us, that He loves us so much that He has called us His children
  - John has also told us that we prove that we are God’s children by the way we express God’s love to others
  - And we also saw that we learn to express God’s love by abiding in Jesus and in His Word
  - Recently I said that hate only breeds more hate
  - We would like to believe that the opposite is also true – that love only breeds more love
  - Sadly that is not true – Jesus was the living embodiment of God’s love
- John 3:16**

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

- The response from many to Jesus’ acts of love was hate **John 5:16**
- For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.**
- Love does not always result in love
  - In our text today, John is going to tell us of three results of love
  - When you express God’s love one, two, or all three of these results will come
  - First result – **Love Divides**
  - **1 John 3:10-12**
  - When we receive, experience and then express God’s love it will create division

- Jesus told us that we are to let our light shine
- The love of God expresses is one element of that light
- The Bible tells us that the world hates the light
- The light reveals the darkness to be darkness
- Abel was righteous, Cain was not – rather than repenting and being righteous Cain lashed out at his brother and killed him
- Love expressed will cause a division between those who are of God, and those who are not
- And John says we shouldn't be surprised by their response
- **1 John 3:13**
- Jesus spoke about that **John 15:18-19**  
**If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**
- Humankind can be divided into two parts – righteous and the wicked
- The righteous are those who have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior – have His righteousness
- The wicked are those who have not believed on the name of Jesus
- If your life resembles Christ, the world will see their own wickedness, and rather than change and turn from the darkness, they will try to extinguish the light
- God's love divides the world into two parts – those who will receive His love, and those who will reject it
- **1 John 3:14-15**
- Our love for others is one of the proofs of our saved status
- All the riots we see going on right now are not motivated by love
- John is equating hate with murder, just as Jesus did **Matthew 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.'** <sup>22</sup> **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.**
- How do we love, when what we see so often is the opposite of love?
- That's where our second point comes in – **Love Dies!**
- **1 John 3:16**

- Jesus laid down His life for us, and so John says that we ought to do the same thing
- Peter says we should follow His example **1 Peter 2:20-21**  
But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps...
- Jesus said there is a higher kind of love **John 15:13**  
**Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**
- The kind of love that Jesus and John are talking about is a love that requires us to die
- But not a physical death – but dying to self
- The term ‘laid down’ means give up or set aside
- And while it can refer to giving up your life – that’s what Jesus did on the cross
- But more frequently it means setting our own needs aside to meet the needs of others
- It is about putting others before ourselves
- John gives us a practical example of dying to self, of laying down our life for someone else
- **1 John 3:17**
- James talked about this as well **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?
- To love like Jesus loved and loves, it will cost us something
- Here’s something to keep in mind
- If we want to experience God’s love more fully, we will need to express God’s love more fully
- I know God’s love while I am loving like Jesus loved
- And the degree to which I do that is the degree to which I will experience God’s love
- John sums this point up
- **1 John 3:18**
- Loving like Jesus loved, with self-denying love, is something we do, not just something we say
- Don’t just tell me you love me, show me by your actions

- And starting next Sunday, you will have an opportunity to do that
  - Next Sunday we begin our annual food drive
  - Most of us rarely miss a meal, and while they may not be obvious, there are people around us who do not have enough food
  - We have named it the **Love in Action Food Drive**
  - This is a generous church and I am blessed by how this church ministers to others, especially within the church
  - In this season of thanksgiving and giving gifts to others, I would like to challenge you to put your love into action
  - Help us to feed as many people as we can
  - God cares about the poor, and so should we, not just in word, but in action
  - Being a Christian, being like Christ is not always easy
  - People will sometimes respond to our love with hate
  - And then there is the constant battle with our flesh, that resists and gets in the way of us loving like Jesus did
  - And sometimes it gets so hard that we might even wonder if we are saved
  - Our third result of love – **Love Decides**
  - **1 John 3:19**
  - It is not unusual for doubts to rise up in the minds of believers
  - John says here that we can be assured before Him – Jesus
  - ‘by this we know’ = this = God’s love in us and expressed through us
  - We can be assured of our relationship with Jesus by the presence of God’s love in our heart and by the actions that love produces
  - God is greater than your doubts
  - **1 John 3:20-22**
  - Self-condemnation is very distracting and potentially destructive in the life of a believer
  - It is an issue of faith **Romans 8:1**
- There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***
- If you believe that Jesus laid down His life for you, and you have repented from your sins – simply receive God’s forgiveness, and the promises of His Word

- Verse 22 has led some to believe they can ask God for anything they want and get it
- In context referring to expressing sacrificial, self-denying love toward others
- Most of us would be far better off if we would pray like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Father, this is what I want, but what I want more is what you want for my life
- God knows what you need, and knows better than you what would be good for your life
- John finishes chapter a final exhortation
- **1 John 3:23-24**
- In the Bible when the word ‘name’ is used in this context it is speaking of the whole nature and character of the person
- It is not enough to believe that Jesus was a real person
- Son Jesus Christ = three realities of Jesus
- Son = God the Son, Jesus = man, born of a woman, Christ = Savior
- And then proof that we believe in the name of Jesus is by our love for one another
- On Tuesday, Donald Trump was legally and democratically elected to be the 45<sup>th</sup> president of the United States
- It grieves me to see how people are losing their minds over the results
- It is a sad testimony to the lost condition of most of the people in this country
- As Christians, whether you are for Trump or against him, you are called to love others
- If you interact with people regarding the election, do not be a part of the problem
- It is okay to speak the truth as you believe it to be
- But do it with grace, mercy, and love and in humility
- I am discovering that sometimes silence is the best response when dealing with people who aren’t listening
- You abide in love, and as the Spirit abides in you, He will guide about when to speak and what to say

- You love, even when those around you are spewing hate
- You love, even if they hate you in response
- You love, because it is the only way that they will know the love of God – if they see it you
- And maybe, just maybe one of them will be attracted to the love of God, and be freed from the darkness
- Lay your life aside, and let God love them through you
- If even just one person comes to know the love of God through you, then your whole life was worth the price that was paid to save it
- Demonstrate love – let them see love
- Amen - have a radical week