



1 John

Lavish Love

Who do you love?

1 John 2:7-17

Message #3 of 10 – S707

Sermon given on October 23, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

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Who do you love?

1 John 2:7-17

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 John 2**
- Today, we continue our series **Lavish Love**
- It used to be that I thought the words, ‘I love you’ were immensely private and reserved for a very select group of people in my life; my family, wife, and children
- No one outside that circle was worthy of those words
- But as I am getting to know Jesus better and His love for me, I am learning that my definition of love was very small
- I am discovering that the words, ‘I love you’ are three of the most powerful words in human language
- After nearly twenty years of walking with the Lord, I am still learning about what it means to love
- I am still a long way from fully understanding God’s lavish love for me, and how He wants me to express His love through me
- And it is my growing conviction that what this world needs is Christians to know, experience, and express the lavish love of God
- 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 2:7-17**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Who do you love?**
- There was a time I could list the people I loved on two hands and have fingers left over
- To me, it is interesting question, ‘Who do you love?’
- You see, to me it is an examination of how willing I am to obey God’s commands
- And my willingness to obey God is an indication of how well I know God
- **1 John 2:3-5**

- One of the ways that we can know that we are Christians is our obedience to God's Word
- John is going to narrow our focus to one commandment
- **1 John 2:7-8**
- Anyone notice what appears to be a contradiction there?
- Is it an old commandment or a new one? Answer is: Yes, both.
- Jesus, the night He was betrayed said: **John 13:34a**
A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another...
- But was that a new commandment, not to the Jews
- 1,500 years earlier the Spirit inspired Moses to write **Leviticus 19:18**
You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.
- The Jews interpreted that as meaning they were to show love to other Jews
- Which then led them to despise anyone who wasn't a Jew
- There was another old commandment like it **Deuteronomy 6:5**
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- Keep your finger in 1 John and turn to **Mark 12**
- Too often we forget that the main motivation of God is love
- Later John is going to say God is love – that is His nature
- We are never more like God than when we are loving
- Jesus was asked a question
- **Mark 12:28**
- This scribe wanted to know what was the one commandment that was the most important – the supreme commandment
- Jesus' response is simple, elegant, and powerful
- **Mark 12:29-30**
- Quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love God with all of yourself, all your being - But He doesn't stop there
- **Mark 12:31**
- Quotes Leviticus 19:18 – Love others in the same way that you love God
- Jesus says that if you love God and others like that, you will fulfill the rest of the Law

- If you love God with all of yourself, you will keep all of His commandments
- And if you love others just as you love God, you are fulfilling the purpose of the Law
- Turn back to **1 John 2**
- Okay, that is the old, but how is it new
- I only read part of **John 13:34**
A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- It is new in that it has been raised it to a new standard, the life and example of Jesus
- The darkness is passing away – the realm of sin is coming to an end
- It may not look like that as we look around the world
- But the Bible says very clearly, that judgment is coming to this world and the Light of the World, Jesus, is coming to set up His kingdom of righteousness
- The light is already shining – that’s you and me, Christian – we are the light of the world
- Your light shines as you love God and others
- Jesus is the light that shines into your heart and you are the light that shines out into the darkness of this world
- And that light is love – there is no place for hate in the heart of a true Christian
- **1 John 2:9**
- Hatred = darkness – it is the realm of sin
- **1 John 2:10**
- Christians should be known for their love **John 13:35**
By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- ‘there is no cause of stumbling in him’
- 2 meanings possible – maybe both apply
- First – Loving others keeps us from stumbling in our faith
- It takes faith to love other people the way God loves them
- Second – Our love for others will keep them from stumbling in their faith

- If we do something that is unloving, it might cause someone to sin, or to stumble in their faith
- By loving them as well as we can, we are not a source for stumbling
- They may still stumble, but not because of us
- John then warns of the danger of hate
- **1 John 2:11**
- Hatred blinds people – powers of judgment are obscured
- There is a vivid example of that in America right now
- There is no question that there are real racial injustices taking place in our country
- And something should be done about it
- The Black Lives Matter movement is not the answer
- Their entire movement is not built upon injustice, but upon hate
- I don't know what the answer is, but I know it isn't that
- Hate only leads to darkness, more and deeper darkness
- Only love leads to the light, only love leads to the goodness of God
- John then reminds us that there is a source of the darkness
- **1 John 2:12-14**
- Twice John refers to overcoming the 'wicked one'
- Also can be translated 'evil one' – a specific person
- This is a reference to Satan – in the Lord's Prayer **Matthew 6:13**
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
- Satan is a real being – created to be perfect and beautiful – but in pride thought that he deserved to be worshipped like God
- Was cast down from his exalted place and now is the enemy of all who are made in the image of God
- He is the Prince of Darkness – and is an immensely powerful being
- But He is not as powerful as God – John says later **1 John 4:4**
You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- We overcome him by faith in God and His Word
- John has told us to love God and others, not to hate, and to overcome the wicked one through our faith
- He closes this section of the letter by telling us what not to love

- **1 John 2:15-17**

- Starts by saying literally, ‘Stop loving the world or the things in the world’

- Wait a minute, doesn’t God love the world **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.

- World used three different ways – world = the earth

- World – John 3:16 = God’s good creation – all people

- Created to be the objects of His love

- The one John is using – world = those who have forsaken the God who created them **James 4:4**

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- Points to three ways that people love the world

- Lust of the flesh – carnal desires – doing what makes you happy

- Lust of the eyes – covetousness & flaunting possessions

- Pride of life – boastful, arrogant, pretentious egoism

- Turn on the television and you will be bombarded by examples of all three

- That includes both candidates running for the presidency

- One of the ways many Christians are loving the world is by listening to mainstream media – the so-called news organizations

- You need to understand something, most of them have little interest in truth, only in news – in stories – truth is often irrelevant

- Who do you think is behind the media in this country – it ‘is not of the Father but of the world’ – being influenced by the Prince of Darkness, the Father of Lies

- On November 8th we will be called upon to vote for the next president

- And I believe every Christian should vote and I am going to tell you why

- I love God – I love His Word – and I am doing my best to love what and who He loves

- I am going to try to obey all of His commandments

- Let’s look at just one of those commandments **Exodus 20:13**

You shall not murder.

- Murder is when a human takes the life of another human
- God says that murder is wrong and if guilty, forfeit your own life
- Law of inverse interpretation – a term I made up this week
- If murder is wrong – then human life is important to God
- The Bible teaches us that God is the author of life
- From that comes the question, when does life begin?
- We can get all spiritual and say it begins when God thinks of it, but let's keep it in the practical, material world – life begins at conception
- And I believe that the instant that conception takes place, that life is precious to God and is the object of His love
- And I love God by loving what he loves – that precious life is to be loved and protected
- One of the candidates doesn't believe that
- This candidate doesn't believe that life begins until birth
- And believes that we as humans have the right to do whatever they desire to that thing, including dismembering it in its mother's womb
- Every day thousands of lives are murdered at the hands of people who call themselves doctors, in direct contradiction of Hippocratic oath to do no harm
- One of the candidates supports late-term abortion and if elected will make it easier to get abortions – will make it easier to murder babies
- On this one issue alone this candidate should be voted against
- There are many other reasons – but that one is enough for me
- We need to vote – do your homework – stop listening to the media – learn what the candidates stand for
- Then vote for the one that is closest to what you believe in
- Neither one of them is perfect, but one of them is opposed to almost everything you say you believe in
- We have an opportunity on November 8th to vote and I believe we have a moral obligation and a holy duty to do so
- Pray and ask God who you should vote for
- And don't forget that God has used pagan leaders to bless his people
- Let's be faithful to Him and do our civic duty and trust Him to pour out His lavish love on His people – Amen - have a radical week