



1 John

# Lavish Love

**Abiding in Love**

**1 John 2:18-29**

Message #5 of 10 – S711

**Sermon given on October 30, 2016**



**Sunday Morning Service**

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# Abiding in Love

## 1 John 2:18-29

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 John 2**
- Today, we continue our series **Lavish Love**
- If I were to ask you, ‘Where do you live?’
- You would respond with an address and maybe a description of the area you live in
- And if we were to go to your house, and spend time with you there, I would learn a lot about you
- Where we live is often a reflection of who we are, and it often influences the way we live
- The Apostle John is going to tell us about the spiritual equivalent to that in today’s text
- He is going to use the word ‘abide’ several times

**Definition: to remain; continue; stay – to continue in a particular condition, attitude, relationship – abode; dwell; reside**

- Where we abide spiritually is a reflection of who we are spiritually, and absolutely influences how we live
- Most people don’t give any thought to this
- Their total focus is on the things of this world
- And their life reflects the reality of that fact
- But God has a different desire for us **Colossians 3:1-2**

**If then (since) you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**

- There is a spiritual realm, and if we are not intentional about where we are abiding, it will affect our relationship with 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 2:18-29**
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **Abiding in Love**

- Our series is Lavish Love – we are talking about the reality that God loves us, in a way that is as big as He is huge
- It ought to make sense then that we ought to abide in His love
- The question is, ‘How do we do that?’
- How do we abide in God’s lavish love so that we can experience and enjoy the fullness of the joy of the Lord, and walk in intimate fellowship with Creator God
- John is going to tell us first that we need to be careful who we are listening to
- First – **Watch out for antichrists**
- **1 John 2:18**
- ‘the Antichrist is coming’ – this is a very specific person that John says is coming in the future
- And when we get to the book of Revelation in February we will discuss him at length
- ‘even now many antichrists have come’
- ‘anti’ – two basic meanings – first = against or opposed to
- Anti-abortion = against abortion
- Second meaning = in place of
- So an antichrist is someone who is opposed to Christ or someone in sets themselves up in the place of Christ
- John says this is sign that we are in the ‘last hour’
- It points to the time when God’s patience and putting up with the sins of this world will come to an end
- We will get into that at length in the Revelation study
- Just know that as we look out and we the spirit of antichrist, we are closer to that time than we were
- How do we know who the antichrists are – John tells us one of the signs
- **1 John 2:19**
- If we are of the same spirit, we would be able to have fellowship
- And that fellowship would have continued
- Many of the cults were started by people who once were a part of the church

- Our second point – How to abide in love – **Rest in the Truth**
  - **1 John 2:20-21**
  - John is saying, ‘You already know the truth’
  - The false teachers, the antichrists were teaching that they had new and secret knowledge
  - The Mormons are known for this as well
  - We ought to be suspicious and skeptical of ‘new’ spiritual truth
  - You know the truth because ‘you have an anointing from the Holy One’ – What is that?
  - In the OT we see anointing of priest, prophets, and kings
  - Involved the pouring of oil over their head
  - The anointing was the initiating of them into their role for God
  - Bible says that Jesus was anointed by God the Father – Acts 4:27
  - When did that happen? **Matthew 3:16-17**
- When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**
- Jesus promised that same anointing to every Christian **John 14:16-17**  
I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
  - The truth is in you because the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit dwells in you **John 16:13-14**
- However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.**
- We need to rest in the truth – we do that by putting God’s Word into our hearts and minds
  - Be careful of seeking new spiritual experiences
  - Rest in the truth and let the Spirit lead you
  - John gives another sign of the false teachers/antichrists
  - **1 John 2:22-23**
  - The question that every human will have to answer some day is, ‘Who is Jesus?’

- And John is saying here that if you get it wrong, it will have eternal consequences
- There are three confessions of Jesus that we must make if we want to claim God as our Father in heaven
- First – Jesus is God the Son – Matthew 16:16, John 9:35-38
- Second – Jesus is Lord – Philippians 2:9-11
- Third – Jesus is the Messiah/Christ – 1 John 2:22
- The false teachers/antichrists in one way or another diminish the importance of Jesus
- Some religions suggest that we worship the same God, like Islam, but say we just disagree about Jesus
- John saying you can't diminish or dismiss Jesus and still be worshipping God – in fact he says those who do that are liars and antichrists and have no relationship with God the Father
- Jesus said you cannot even know the Father apart from the Son
- Third point – Abiding in Love – **Let truth abide in you**
- **1 John 2:24**
- 'you heard from the beginning' = gospel – God's Word
- How do we abide in the truth – first accept God's Word as truth
- **Psalm 119:160**
- **The entirety of Your word *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.**
- Then interact with it and let it control your thoughts and actions
- If you do that, John says you will be abiding in the Son, Jesus, and the Father
- The pathway to intimacy with God is found in abiding in the truth
- And intimacy with God is where we find the Joy of the Lord
- And then John throws in God's promise to those who abide with Him
- **1 John 2:25**
- Abiding with God in this life assures us of the promise we have to be with Him for all of eternity
- God's desire is that His creation would respond to His love by loving Him back, and He has promised many things to strengthen, encourage, and comfort us as we walk through this life
- Fourth point – Abiding in Him – **Trust the Spirit who abides in you**

- **1 John 2:26-27**

- The anointing or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is evidence of our chosen status with God
- There are those in the world who would try to deceive us
- The false teachers would try to convince people that only under their teaching would you ever get to know the truth
- Ultimately, all you need is the Word of God and the Spirit of God to get to know God
- That's how I came to faith, not through a preacher, or an evangelist
- The Spirit of God implanted a curiosity in my heart that I believed could only be satisfied by reading the Bible
- And so I began reading and through the Spirit's work bringing the Word to life in my heart, I came to believe in God and Jesus as my Savior
- This doesn't mean that you don't need church or a teacher
- There are some aspects of God that can only be learned in community with other believers **Hebrews 10:24-25**

**Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

- But be very wary of someone who tells you that you need to sit under their teaching to know God
- Trust the Spirit inside you to teach you and guide you
- Fifth and final – Abide in Him – **Abide in Him**

- **1 John 2:28-29**

- This is a call to fellowship with Jesus, not in heaven, but right now in this life, today, wherever you are
- Turn to **John 15**
- All of us will someday stand before Jesus
- Jesus is coming back for His church – ‘appears’ – ‘coming’
- Any time we talk about abiding, we will probably end up in John 15 where Jesus taught us about it
- **John 15:4-5**
- To abide in Christ speaks of our connection to Him

- The more of our life that is connected to Jesus, the more His life produces fruit in us
- We make the mistake of believing that we produce fruit through our lives
- Abiding in Christ allows Him to produce fruit through me
- And the more of my life that is connected to His, the more fruit He produces through my life
- John, back in **1 John 2** is speaking to believers – says we will have one of two responses to Christ’s coming – we will have confidence – or we will be ashamed
- And the amount that we have abided with Christ, will determine which one
- If we have been faithful to walk with Jesus – watching out for the false teachers, resting in and trusting His Word and trusting the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us into all truth – when Jesus comes we are going to be confident
- We will see Him as a beloved friend who has been an active and vital part of our daily lives
- But if we have neglected those things, we will be ashamed, our heart will remind us that He gave everything just so that we could walk with Him
- When we see Him we will see the love of God radiating from Him in all of its glorious power and purity and we will be ashamed that we didn’t respond as we should have
- We don’t know when Jesus is coming back – could be very soon – maybe before November 8<sup>th</sup> – I’m ready – I’m confident
- What about you? Choose today to abide in Jesus – to walk in the light and love of God
- God has poured His lavish love into your heart
- He gave you His word so that you would know Him and His love and He gave you the Holy Spirit to teach you how to love Him
- And God the Father sent His Son Jesus so that you would have a way to connect with that love
- God did all the hard stuff, and He simply asks you to abide in Him

- It is through that abiding that we experience the fullness of that love, as well as His joy, peace, hope, grace, mercy, comfort, and strength
- It is not always easy, as we will see in future messages, but it is so worth it
- Abide in Him, day-by-day, moment-by-moment, choice-by-choice, and watch Him produce amazing fruit through your life
- Amen - have a radical week