



1 John

Lavish Love

Knowing True Love!

1 John 5:1-21

Message #10 of 10 – S716

Sermon given on December 4, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Knowing True Love!

1 John 5:1-21

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 John 5**
- Today, we conclude our series **Lavish Love**
- Before we begin this morning, I would like to address an issue that has come up recently
- As a Calvary Chapel church we are part of an organization called Calvary Chapel Association
- This was originated by Pastor Chuck Smith of CC Cost Mesa
- Three years ago Pastor Chuck went to be with the Lord, Pastor Brian Broderson became Senior Pastor of CCCM
- Recently he resigned from CCA and started his own organization CC Global Network and grandfathered all CC churches into this new network
- There appears to be a differing of visions of the future for Calvary Chapel
- CCA wants to continue with the vision that Pastor Chuck left behind, Pastor Brian sees the ministry going in a new direction
- Sadly, it appears that some kind of split may be coming in the future
- We don't know a lot more than that right now – you can come to talk with me or any of the elders if you have questions
- Right now all we can do is pray – for unity – for peace – for God's will to be clear
- Let's pray now and then get into our text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Knowing True Love!**
- In many ways chapter five is a review of what John taught in the previous four chapters
- We can sum up this chapter with three words; love, obedience, and faith
- John opens this chapter with some practical realities about love

- **1 John 5:1**
- ‘believes...Jesus is the Christ is born of God’
- In John chapter 3, Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again
- And here John tells us what it takes to be born again – believe that Jesus is the Christ
- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God come in the flesh to save the world from their sins
- Goes on to say – if you love God – love His other children
- As a parent makes me sad when my children are not getting along
- Reminded of Philip and Rebecca – couldn’t stand her singing – get along fine now
- Loving God means loving those He loves
- But how do we do that, some of them are very hard to love
- **1 John 5:2-3a**
- The way we are to love God and others is described to us in the words of Scripture
- I learn to love others as I learn about God and Jesus, and I learn about God through His Word and His Spirit
- The best way to love others is to do what God says in His Word and through His Spirit
- Some people struggle the idea of obeying God
- **1 John 5:3b**
- Obedience to God’s commands proves my love for Him
- John is not saying that it is easy, but it is not a heavy burden if I really do love Him
- You can tell how someone loves another by what they are willing to do for them – parents of disabled children, caregivers of Alzheimer’s or dementia sufferers
- If I truly love God, nothing He asks me to do is too heavy to bear
- This loving obedience comes with a promise
- **1 John 5:4-5**
- With obedience comes victory

- There are many times in the Christian life when we might feel defeated
- Maybe a sin has caught of us, or someone has left us or betrayed us
- Maybe life isn't going the way we expected it to
- John makes an absolute statement, 'Whatever is born of God overcomes the world.'
- It does not say might overcome, or will overcome, or can overcome
- Then tells us how we overcome the world – our faith
- Not our strength, or wisdom, or influence – our faith – in what?
- Faith, belief that Jesus is the Son of God
- If we want to overcome, we put our trust in Jesus **John 16:33**
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.
- We don't fight for victory in our life, we fight from victory
- And if we are feeling defeated it is because there is something about God that we need to know, believe, and or obey
- John then gives three witnesses of that victory
- **1 John 5:6-9**
- The water points to the baptism of Jesus **Matthew 3:17-17**
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. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- The blood points to the cross, where Jesus poured out His blood for the sins of the whole world
- The Holy Spirit inside every believer is the third witness
- Verse 7 points to the trinity – not found in any early manuscripts
- Is taught elsewhere in the Bible, but doesn't belong here
- Based on these three witnesses, people are called to make a decision
- **1 John 5:10-13**
- If you are born of God = born again – then the Spirit inside you bears witness that it is true
- If you don't believe with these three witnesses – that Jesus is the Son of God - calling God a liar
- Verse 12 makes it very simple – all humanity headed to one of only two destinies

- If you have Jesus – faith in Him as the Son of God who came to save sinners – to save you – have life
- Not physical life, because anyone who can read that has physical life

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- Have Jesus, have spiritual life, God’s life in you – that’s how we get to heaven – God is in us now, in this life – God will bring us to heaven where He can love us in absolute perfection for the rest of eternity
- If they don’t have Jesus, don’t believe that He is the Son of God – don’t have life – spiritually dead even though they are physically alive
- Without God’s life in you, you cannot get into heaven
- Spend all eternity separated from the God who loves you and created you to be the object of His love
- If you reject that love, you leave God with no choice but to put on you the judgment your sins deserved – the judgment that Jesus died to take away from you
- John has already taught us about the confidence this truth should impart to us
- He brings it up again and applies that confidence to our prayer life
- **1 John 5:14-15**
- The basis for our confidence is love – God’s love has been poured out into our heart through faith in Jesus
- This love then being manifested by loving obedience to God’s commands and expressions of God’s love to those whom God loves
- If we approach God on that basis, we can approach Him with absolute confidence and we can ask Him anything we want
- There is one more condition that must be met if we want to be confident that God will answer our prayers
- Our prayers must be ‘according to His will’
- So, how do we determine God’s will
- First thing, be willing to do God’s will, to accept what God’s will is
- Some people tell God, show me your will and then I will let you know if I am willing to do it – God doesn’t work like that

- If I love God then my greatest desire ought to be to do His will, whatever it might be, regardless of how I feel about it
- Second thing – seek God’s will – Bible – Spirit – circumstances of life
- Third thing – check your motivation – why do you want what you are asking for?
- Is it to glorify God – bless others – grow in your faith? Or is it selfish?
- If we are praying according to God’s will we can be confident that we will get an answer from God
- And if God’s will is my desire, I will accept whatever answer He gives
- Four possible answers – Yes – No – Wait – Mystery
- Sometimes God answers our prayers in ways we would never have anticipated
- That is for general prayers, but then John focuses on one specific kind of prayer
- **1 John 5:16-17**
- This is called intercessory prayer – praying on behalf or for others
- In this case it is for Christians who are involved in sin
- These verses are difficult to interpret because it is not clear what John means by ‘sins leading to death’
- Whatever that means, it is obvious we are called to pray for Christians who are caught in sin
- Jesus broke the power of sin when He died on the cross
- Pray that they would walk in the freedom that Jesus won them on the cross
- **1 John 5:18-19**
- ‘does not sin’ – not sinless perfection = is not engaging in a deliberate habitual sin
- The whole world is under the sway of the devil
- But as believers in Jesus Christ, the devil does not have unrestricted access to our lives
- ‘does not touch’ doesn’t mean bad things never come
- Means Satan cannot take hold of our lives – God lives in us **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.

- Evil may come into the life of a believer, just as it did in the life of Job, but God allows it for purposes that will bring Him glory, bless others, and grow our faith – if we trust Him
- John is dealing in this letter with false teachers who are coming into the church are creating uncertainty in the Christians
- John closes his letter reminding them they can be confident of what they know
- **1 John 5:20**
- Jesus came so that we could know God and eternal life
- There ought to be a certainty to the way we communicate our faith
- We shouldn't say we think Jesus is God, or even that we believe Jesus is God – We know Jesus is God!
- Not - I think or believe I am saved – I am saved!
- Not - I hope God loves me, I think God loves me – God loves me – He saved me – He forgave of My sins – and someday Jesus is going to come and get me and take me to heaven
- This world would have us to believe nothing is true or real
- We need to show them that they are mistaken by our immovable faith in the Son of God
- John closes this wonderful letter with one last exhortation
- **1 John 5:21**
- Idolatry is putting anything in a place where it is getting the affection you owe to God
- God loves you, but he will not tolerate any competitors for His affection – He wants all of your heart **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**
The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- Love God with every bit of yourself by loving others as much as God loves them and love boldly because you know Jesus and because you know you have eternal life
- Amen - have a radical week