



6/8/26

*I was so convicted by the message from Sunday on the 4 questions to ask when I walk into a room. 1. Whose will? The Father's will (never mine). 2. Whose way? The Son's way (never mine). 3. Whose work? The Spirit's work (never mine). 4. Who's in charge? (not usually me)... I am convicted because I am never the answer to the first 3 questions, and I am almost never the answer to the 4th question. I find that any time I walk into the room, forgetting the correct answers to these questions and picking my will, my way, and doing it in my strength never goes well. Never. O Lord, please help us to enter any and every situation with You and Your desires at the forefront of our minds.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*1 John 3:16-24*

*As I look at today's passage, I recognize that it applies to all relationships, but as with any scripture that speaks to how we should treat each other, it applies to the marriage first and foremost. So, Lord, I'm listening. Please teach me what You want me to see here, not just for information, but for transformation.*

*Vs. 16 ~ "By this we know love, that He (Jesus) laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers (and sisters)." So... in the marriage, the husband is called to lay down his life for his wife. Here, it makes it clear that this should be the mindset of all believers. We should lay our lives down for each other. Just as Ephesians 5:22 calls all wives to submit to their own husbands, and vs. 21 says we are all to submit to one another, so it is not just the husband who is called to love as Jesus loved.*

*John says I ought to lay down my life for my brothers and sisters in Christ AS Christ laid down His life for me. My motivation for being sacrificial in loving others... including my husband... is Jesus. In 1 John 2:5, John said I "ought to walk as Jesus walked." How did Jesus walk? Or should I say... where did Jesus walk? He walked all the way to his crucifixion, carrying His cross on His back. So I need to "deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow Him" (Luke*

9:23). If I'm denying myself, taking up my cross daily, and following Jesus, it will necessarily impact how I treat my husband and anyone else. My goal is to treat them as He treats me... and remember... He laid down His life for me BEFORE I loved Him.

Vs. 17-18 ~ "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." Putting love into practice means that I will see that someone is in need and provide for that need if I'm able to. See the need, meet the need, don't put myself before the need. The evidence that God's love is dwelling in me is that I will willingly, cheerfully provide... even if that person in need is my husband, and even if that means laying down my personal desires. Let me never close my heart against my husband. May I never justify closing my heart against anyone. My motivation is not how they treat me but how Jesus treats me.

"Actions speak louder than words." So saying I love someone but not showing that I love that person is not really love. I DO need to love with my words and talk... but I can't just stop there. My actions need to prove out that love... I need to TRULY love... that means my heart needs to be engaged. The words, "I love you but I don't like you" are not in the Bible. Would I want Jesus or anyone else say that to me? O Lord, please help me to love as You love. Jesus, You spoke Your love to me... and You PROVED Your love for me in Your work of sacrifice and in absolute truth. Again, I need to remember that I'm called to love AS YOU LOVED ME... by laying down Your life.

Vs. 19-20 ~ "By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything." By this we shall know... by what we shall know? By loving in deed and in truth... we shall experientially know that we are of the truth... that we belong to Jesus. This is how we reassure our hearts before Him... face to face... in His presence. My heart does and will try to condemn me, but God is greater than my heart. As I put myself before Him, He who knows my heart reminds me that I am growing to love more and more. He who is greater than my heart reminds me that I belong to Him and He WILL grow my love more and more. This is His will. Love is His way. The Spirit does this work in me so that I love like He loves. The more I submit to Jesus, the more of my heart I give to the Spirit to grow my love, the more I am absolutely assured that I belong to Him because I am in close relationship with Him.

Vs. 21-22 ~ "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him." When will my heart not condemn me? When I'm letting the Lord lead my heart because He's greater than my heart. He's greater than my feelings, desires, and choices. That's when my confidence in Him is secure. There's such a oneness with Him that His love flows from my heart and there's no room for feelings of shame.

It is when I'm abiding in Him and loving others as He loves me, and when I'm finding my confidence in Him that I can receive from Him what I ask for... because I'm asking what aligns

*with His word because I actually want what aligns with His word... as I'm obeying Him and seeking to please Him. My flesh says, "Oh sure. Of course He'll give you what you want when you only ask for what He wants. Who wouldn't do that?" But my spirit says, "Why would He or should He give me something that goes against His will when everything that aligns with His will is good and everything that doesn't align with His will is bad?" Every good gift and every perfect gift is from Him (James 1:17). I would be crazy to ask for anything that goes against His will. But I won't realize the truth of that if I'm not abiding in Him. O Lord, let that be my greatest pursuit... to abide in You! That's what pleases You the most!*

*Vs. 23-24 ~ "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. Whoever keeps His commandments abides in God, and God in Him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us." So... God commands me to believe in Jesus and love others. To truly obey this command is to abide in Him. The only way I CAN keep this command is by abiding in Him. Why? Because the Spirit, whom He has given me, is the one who grows in me the ability to obey. I cannot do this in my own strength.*

*God is so good!!! He knows I can't love the way He calls me to love, so He gives me the Holy Spirit to help me love the way He calls me to love. This is why I should face every conversation and enter every room with the mindset of... I want YOUR WILL, Father. I will follow in the WAY YOU walked, Jesus... even to the point of laying my life down for others. I will do it according to YOUR WORK in my heart, Holy Spirit. All for the glory of God. All in obedience to You and love for others through the love You pour into my heart.*

*Father, I know it's Your desire that I sacrificially care for my husband as well as all Your people. And it's Your desire that I see a need and meet it with the resources You've provided. And it's Your desire that I do it all in love. I want what You want. I ask in the name of Jesus... please help me to have Your desires, to obey Your commands, and to love as You love. I trust that You will answer this request with a yes. Praise Your name.*