

“Life” or “Lifestyle”
EPC Sermon 8-17-2025

“Life” or “Lifestyle” what do I mean?

First Century Story “All in Common vs Freeloaders”

Love One Another

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

We are reminded of the commandment “Love one another” a foundation of Christianity.

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

Christians are often surprised that the World hates it. An occurrence that has been happening since the beginning of the Church. It is common to think of passing from Life to Death. This life on earth without Christ leads to death. A life with Christ leads to eternal life.

Without Christ = abides in death With Christ = into life

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

The absence of Love leads to murder (Cain) (Satan)

John Calvin – If we wish evil to happen to our brother from some one else, we are murderers.

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Christian foundation = Jesus gave his life for us! The early form of Gnosticism John was combating denied that Jesus was human.

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John goes on to state (moral obligation) that we should be like Jesus.

17 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?

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Loving God and Loving your neighbor are intertwined, cannot be separated.

We should show God's Love not only in our words, it should also show in are actions, it should show in are faith. It should show in our Life!

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;

20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

As we try to live the Christian Life our conscience may worry us. “Am I doing this right?” “I am not good enough” But be reassured that God knows our hearts, our strengths, our failures, weaknesses ... everything. Our conscience cannot condemn us before God. If we truly Love God and our neighbor (keep his commandments) we can have confidence in our salvation.

23 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.

24 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.

John restates the commandments – Believe and Love

Life in God / God in your life through the working of the holy spirit

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We continue this struggle today, the same ones as John.

There are people who deny that Christ was human or only human. He was both human and Spirit (God)

The world still hates us. Because we love the Lord and show that love to others.

The world tries to guilt us into doing what they want. The Holy Spirit guides us in love to accomplish what God would have us to do.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.