

# Lessons From I John

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## Love Delineated

(I Jn 3:16-24)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John"
  - a. Last week we saw John give us two reasons why it was necessary to love the brethren.
    - i. It distinguished the children of God from the world.
    - ii. It signified a passing from death to life.
  - b. John after giving us two reasons why it is necessary to love the brethren then goes on to delineate or describe what brotherly love is.
3. Let us now examine what John has written inspired by God.

### I. Brotherly Love Defined (16-18)

- A. The laying down of one's life is love (16)
  1. The Greek word "agape."
    - i. Means love but not just any love it is only used in regards to spiritual love in the N.T.
    - ii. This love has often been called the "active love" as seen in **I Co 13** but it is more than that, it is an active love that is based on desiring the best for another's spiritual self.
      - a. When used as brotherly love it means actively desiring the best for your brethrens soul.
  2. This definition is made manifest in the example given by Jesus.
    - i. Jesus desiring the best for our soul acted upon this and gave His life for us so that we would have the opportunity to gain life.
    - ii. Thus Jesus taught us to love by His example.
      - a. **I Th 4:9** "Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another"<sup>1</sup>
  3. This means if we are mature and love the brethren we are willing to lay down our life for our fellow Christians not just God.
    - i. This is a big statement and fact. It isn't just laying down our life for Christ who is our brother but our other brethren as well.
      - a. **He 2:11** "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers"

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. The supplying of needs is love (17)
1. We talked a lot on Sunday nights in our series on "Who Am I" about how we must understand that we have "needs" as humans and they are...
    - i. Security
      - a. Food, clothing, shelter, health...
    - ii. Relationships
    - iii. Expectations
    - iv. Appreciation
  2. Notice loving the brethren means we strive to fill each others needs, and if we don't try to we are not showing true agape (love).
    - i. **Ga 6:10** "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."
    - ii. Examples of us filling needs.
      - a. Security
        1. **Ja 2:15-16** "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" (NKJV)
      - b. Relationships
        1. **Ph 2:1** "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."
        2. **Ph 2:1** "So then, as Christians, do you have any encouragement? Do you have any comfort from love? Do you have any spiritual relationships? Do you have any sympathy and compassion? 2 Then fill me with joy by having the same attitude and the same love, living in harmony, and keeping one purpose in mind." (GWT)
      - c. Expectations
        1. **II Ti 4:2** "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."
      - d. Appreciation
        1. **I Th 5:11** "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."
  3. Thus we see how important it is to supply the needs of the brethren.

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### C. The activity of deeds and truth (18)

1. Love is action personified.
  - i. **I Co 13:4-8** "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends..."
    - a. In other words love doesn't sit back and view everything it is hands on and visible as ones actions.
2. Love is truth personified.
  - i. **I Jn 4:8** "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."
  - ii. **I Co 2:16** "'For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?'" But we have the mind of Christ."
  - iii. **Jn 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
  - iv. **Jn 17:17** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
    - a. Notice therefore that by teaching truth you are being loving and thus your teaching of truth is a visible attribute of love.

### II. Brotherly Love's Value (19-24)

#### A. Brotherly love's is seen in our assurance before God (19-21)

1. Love of the brethren is an indicator that one is of the truth.
  - i. **I Jn 3:14** "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death."
    - a. In other words we have assurance in our salvation to stand before God because we see the fruit we are producing and can know if it is righteous or not.
2. Why is it so important to have this assurance? (20)
  - i. First because it gives us confidence in repentance when we fall short, notice "if our own hearts condemn us..."
    - a. We can have confidence in our heart to condemn us and lead us to godly sorrow.
      1. **II Co 7:10** "For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (ASV)
  - ii. Second because "if our hearts do not condemn us" then we can have confidence in our relationship with God.
    - a. We can have confidence in our heart if it is based on testing our hearts against the scriptures.
      1. **I Th 5:21** "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (NASB95)
      2. **I Jn 5:13** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."
3. How truly valuable it is to have assurance before God.

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- B. Brotherly love is seen in our prayers being answered (22-23)
1. Everyone wants their prayers answered. No hopes their prayers will not be answered.
  2. Having love for the brethren helps our prayers to be answered but how?
    - i. By keeping God's Word. We ask for the will of God and thus we will have every prayer answered in our favor.
      - a. **Lk 22:42** "saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.""
      - b. **Ja 4:3** "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."
    - ii. Let it always be understood that commandment keeping is why God listens to us. Without it He will not listen.
      - a. **Is 59:1-2** "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."
      - b. **Jn 15:10** "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."
      - c. **Ja 5:16b** "...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."
  3. How truly valuable is assurance in our prayer life.
- C. Brotherly love is seen in God abiding in us
1. Having brotherly love shows that God is abiding in us.
    - i. **Jn 14:23** "Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
  2. The Spirit created the home that God dwells in, the church.
    - i. **Ep 2:22** "In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."
  3. Therefore the church or dwelling place of God is that which is made up of those that "love their brethren" the church.
  4. How truly valuable it is to know that God abides in us.

### CONCLUSION

1. Having brotherly love can only make this life better. Why would anyone not want to have make the best of this life?
2. Question: Are you willing to love your brethren so much as to give your life for them?
  - a. If no go back and continue to look at the great value it will bring to your life. Then make the determination to work on growing in this area that God may continually dwell with you.
  - b. If so continue to grow and nurture such a wonderful characteristic and help it to develop all the more.

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### 3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
  - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
  - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
  - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
  - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
  - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
  - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
  - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**