

Impact 3:16

Knowing Love

(I Jn 3:13-24)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on 3:16 that should have an impact on our lives.
 - a. Two weeks ago we looked at “Understanding Hard to Understand Writings.”
 - i. **II Pt 3:16** “as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at “Knowing Love.”
 - i. **I Jn 3:16** “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”
3. Background to the text.
 - a. I John has some major points no doubt but one of the most important is “love.”
 - i. The Greek root word “agapo” is found 52 times in I John and is found here in our text as well.
 - b. John begins in 3:1 and continues through 5:12 teaching that “God is Love.”
 - i. He shows in the 3:1-2 that it is a privilege to be called a child of God.
 - ii. He continues 3:3-12 discussing the origin & characteristics of sinful conduct.
 1. John uses Cain & Abel’s account to illustrate this.
 - iii. He then goes on in 3:13-24 to show a contrast between love and hate.
 1. “If we are to avoid the hate which motivated Cain, we must adopt the love which motivated Christ.” (WVBS Notes on I John by Chuck Homer pg. 36)
4. It is here in these contrasts our text is found.
 - a. John contrasts...
 - i. Love as life and hate as death.
 1. **I Jn 3:13-15**
 - ii. Love as sacrifice and hate as selfishness.
 1. **I Jn 3:16-18**
 - iii. Love as obedience and hate as disobedience.
 1. **I Jn 3:19-24**
 - b. Thus we find our text dealing with the contrast of...
 - i. Love as a sacrifice and hate as a selfishness.
5. With that in mind let us examine how to avoid hate by looking at how we can adopt the love which motivated Christ.

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

Impact 3:16

I. Knowing Death Vs Life

- A. Knowing love means understanding death
 - 1. Death is the absence of life.
 - i. **Gn 2:7** “then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath** of life, and the man became a living creature.” (emphasis mine)
 - a. Breath is the same word spirit. Thus God put the “spirit of life into man.”
 - ii. **Ja 2:26** “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”
 - 2. Death is a separation from life.
 - i. **Ec 12:7** “and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”
 - a. At death man’s spirit/life returns to God.
 - 3. Hatred brings death to our brethren because it places a separation between the two and leaves an absence there where there used to be kinship.
 - i. **I Jn 3:15** “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”
 - 4. God’s children must know/understand hatred = death.
- B. Knowing love means understanding life
 - 1. Life is produce.
 - i. **Gn 2:7** “then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”
 - 2. Life is the sustained.
 - i. **Ps 54:4** “Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.”
 - 3. Love brings life to the brotherhood because it produces more life and keeps that life sustained.
 - i. **I Jn 3:14** “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers...”
 - 4. God’s children must know/understand love = life.

II. Knowing Selfishness Vs Sacrifice

- A. Knowing love means understanding selfishness
 - 1. Selfishness is isolation.
 - i. **Pr 18:1** “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire...”
 - 2. Selfishness is disorder and vile practices.
 - i. **Ja 3:16** “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”
 - 3. Hatred brings selfishness because it isolates one brother from another because it causes disorder and vile practices. One brother will not help another brother who is in need.
 - i. **I Jn 3:17** “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?”

Impact 3:16

4. God's children must know/understand hatred = selfishness.
- B. Knowing love means understanding sacrifice
 1. Sacrifice is giving when it hurts.
 - i. **Lk 22:42, 44** "saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done...44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."
 2. Sacrifice is giving oneself up.
 - i. **Ro 12:1** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."
 3. Love builds up the brotherhood because each brother/sister gives to the other and is willing to even give up their life for the other.
 - i. **I Jn 3:16** "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."
 4. God's children must know/understand love = sacrifice.

III. Knowing Disobedience Vs Obedience

- A. Knowing love means understanding disobedience
 1. Disobedience is the breaking of the law.
 - i. **I Jn 3:4** "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness."
 2. Disobedience is the separation of man from God.
 - i. **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."
 3. Disobedience is the breaking of God's heart.
 - i. **Mt 23:37** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"
 3. Hate brings with it a stirring against God's Word and the result is a heart broken God because one of His children has chosen to separate him/herself from God.
 - i. **Jn 14:24** "Whoever does not love me does not keep my words..."
- B. Knowing love means understanding obedience
 1. Obedience is the keeping of the law.
 - i. **II Jn 6** "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it."

Impact 3:16

2. Obedience is continually drawing nearer to God.
 - i. **He 10:19-23** “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”
3. Love brings the brethren near to God and each other because there is a mutual agreement in desire for obedience to God by thirsting to have God abiding in them and them abiding in God.
 - i. **I Jn 3:24** “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him...”
4. God’s children must know/understand love = obedience.

CONCLUSION

1. If we adopt the love which motivated Christ (life, sacrifice, & obedience) we not only will “know/understand” love but we will live a life that reflects such an understanding.
 - a. Let us therefore stay the course that reflects such an understanding.
2. Question: Have you adopted in your life the love which motivates Christ?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
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. Have Faith In Jesus **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**