

Proof of Life: Loving Like Children of God

1 John 3:11-18

Children of God Love the Gospel and Love for the Gospel's Sake (v.11)

- **The Gospel Message is Christ's Message**
 - The Gospel is spoken, heard and had
 - The command to love from the beginning – before the law and through the law
 - Articulated by Christ in the Last Supper discourses (**John 13:34;15:12,17**)
 - New / Old Commandment – perfectly fulfilled now in Christ (**1 John 2:7,8**)
- **Loving One Another causes this Message to Continue to be Heard**
 - You don't love because you like. You love because you live!
 - Our passion in loving the church is to find our mutual joy in putting on display the love of God in Christ Jesus!

Children of God Love Each Other While the World Hates Them (vv.12-15)

- **Mark of Cain...no mark of the Child of God (v.12)**
 - THIS SECTION BEGINS A COMMON CHARGE IN SCRIPTURE FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: AVOID AND PURSUE!
 - **Genesis 4:6-7**, "6 The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."
 - An example of being "of the evil one"
 - Puts the secessionists in this category as those who hate the church – very strong statement
 - The purpose is that evil hates righteous deeds because it displays the righteous nature inside the person (always

Satan vs. Christ) – **IMPLICATION**: Cane's actions caused his offering to be unacceptable, but this found its root cause in his unrighteousness (or evil).

- **Lose the Surprise...Gain the Encouragement to Press on (vv.13-15)**
 - The World Hates Christ and those associated with Him (**John 15:18-25**)
 - We know this world is NOT our home
 - Eternal life w/ citizenship in Him
 - Assurance of NOT loving the World like home
 - Love is distinguishing
 - Understanding the nature of sin
 - **Matthew 5:21**, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'"
 - Find strength within the Church while in a world that comes against the Church
 - Assurance
 - How one does or does not show biblical love reveals their inner reality (saved or lost) – racism, fighting... what about pervasive hypocritical living (divorce, adultery)... you cannot hate your wife and love the bride of Christ!

Children of God Love to Put Christ on Display (vv.16-18)

- **We Know Love because of Christ (v.16)**
 - **Spurgeon**, "COME, believer and contemplate this sublime truth, thus proclaimed to thee in simple monosyllables: "He laid down his life for us." There is not one long word in the sentence; it is all as simple as it can be; and it is simple because it is sublime. Sublimity in thought always needs simplicity in words to express itself. Little thoughts require great words to explain them; little preachers need Latin words to convey their feeble ideas, but great thoughts and great expressers of those thoughts are content with little words." He laid down his life for us." Here there is not much upon which any man can display his eloquence; here is little room for metaphysical discussion or for deep thought; the text sets

before us a simple yet sublime doctrine.” (New Park Street Pulpit – Preached in 1857)

- **John 10:11-18**
- This is the crux of the matter...
- No mere example for moralism or some ethic of sacrifice – it is an example, but an example unto gospel-centered sacrifice (giving all for the interest of others...their greatest interest being the Gospel)
- LET THIS SET FOR A WHILE – SILENCE (SPEAK THE WORDS TO YOURSELF)
- He actually purchased our pardon, gave us life and love
 - Those NOT born of God CANNOT love
 - Love is ROOTED in the Atoning Work of Christ
- Our sacrificial living within the Church points to that finished work of Love
- This is where the picture of the gospel in the Lord’s Supper is so beautifully illustrated
 - The Love of Christ
 - On Display in the Body of Christ
 - Our sharing puts our love for one another on Display, pointing solely to Him!
 - We proclaim together at the Lord’s Table, **“He laid down His life for us!”**
- **The Love of Christ demands practical expression (vv.17-18)**
 - Engage in Truth (v.7) – GIVEN V.16, HOW COULD WE NOT DO THE SIMPLEST THINGS?
 - There is no real love action in the absence of truth. This would include the truth of the gospel as well as the truths that support the gospel (**this is where the “social gospel” would fail and biblical church discipline would “succeed”**)
 - This was the challenge Paul made in 1 Corinthians 11 regarding the Lord’s Supper (they were not serving one another – loving one another)
 - **1 Corinthians 11:17-34**