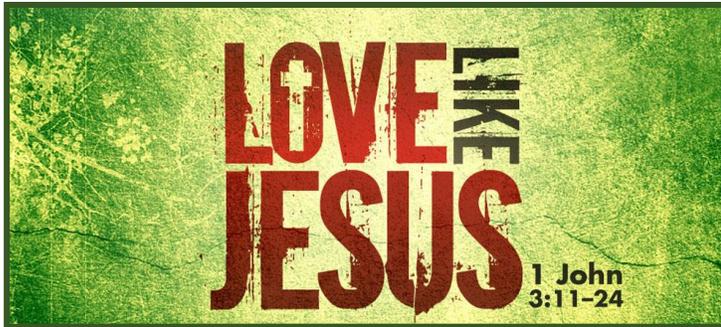


SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015
THEME: THE PRESENCE, POWER AND PROPERTIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
UNIT II – HIS POWER

“PASSING THE TEST OF CHRISTIAN LOVE”

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON VII – APRIL 12, 2015
Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: I John 3:11-24
Lesson Required Reading: James 2:14-20; I John 3:1-24
Lesson Motto Text: I John 3:14 (KJV), *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”*
(The Living Bible) *“If we love other Christians, it proves that we have been delivered from hell and given eternal life. But a person who doesn’t have love for others is headed for eternal death.”*

Reliable Resources: Standard Lesson Commentary; Epistle of John Commentary (H. A. Ironside); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMD); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; MacArthur Study Bible; Spiritual Warfare by Dr. David Jeremiah; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Barnes Notes on the New Testament

INTRODUCTION

Dearly beloved, John the Apostle expounds how Christians who live in Christ’s community should treat each other. We are tested by the way we love one another. Without true love demonstrated by a Christian, he is simply a *“sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.”* The community of Christ is where love should be exemplified. “But” you ask, “what kind of love?” The Greeks had several words to describe love and we should be familiar with their meanings. *Eros* has reference to sexual, erotic relations. This word is never used in the Bible to describe love. *Phileo* is a brotherly kind of love that extends towards fellowship. It is used in the New Testament frequently. *Storgé* basically describes a love between parents and their children. But *Agapé* is the word that describes unconditional divine love as it is exemplified through Christ! This is the love that will keep any relationship strong, and should be practiced in Christ’s community. Let us note how this love passes the test of time and situations, for Christ said by this kind of love people would truly know whose disciples we are, as we see in John 13:34-35, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Love’s Test is Sometimes Adversarial. I John 3:11-13**
- **Love’s Test is also Affirmational. I John 3:14-16**
- **Love’s Test is Demonstrated by Actions. I John 3:17-21**
- **Love’s Test is Authenticated by our Obedience to Christ. I John 3:22-24**

OUTLINE

I. Love’s Test is Sometimes Adversarial. I John 3:11-13

True love is often tested in the community of Christ. The enemy enjoys challenging the believer to bring about doubts and failures. He wants the believer to backslide and walk as a reprobate, to become of no use to the Master. Be aware of the Saviour’s warnings concerning the adversary.

A. Remember Jesus’ message. vs. 11

(Read John 13:34-35; I John 2:7; 3:1-3)

B. Resist Cain's malady. vs. 12

(Read Genesis 4:3-6). Cain was overtaken by hate! Song of Solomon 8:6 tells us, *“Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.”*

C. Reassure yourself in Christ in spite of the unsaved masses. vs. 13

John 17:14, *“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”*

I Corinthians 15:57-58, *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

II. Love's Test is also Affirmational. I John 3:14-16

The Lord wants His people to have powerful affirmation of their loving faithful relationship to Him. Beloved, the test of love removes all doubts in the believer's relationship to Christ!

A. The affirmation of our relationship. vs. 14a

We know salvation is ours when we love one another. Not our faith, convictions, works, or testimony, but our love for the brethren!

B. The absence of a divine relationship. vs. 14b-15

1. **Hate and love cannot walk together! Amos 3:3.** I John 2:9 tells us, *“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.”*

2. **Hate is the sign of another father and family!** John 8:44, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”*

C. The availability of our relationship. vs. 16

Initiated by the Saviour. Romans 5:6-8, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

III. Love's Test is Demonstrated by Actions. I John 3:17-21

A. Actions the child of Christ's community will practice! vs. 17-18.

True Saints can't help but demonstrate their love and not withhold helping others. Read Deuteronomy 15:7-8. (“Talking the talk and walking the walk.”)

B. Actions of God's Word and Spirit that supersedes any doubts...psychologically or satanically. I John 3:19-21

Satan tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11, and surely he will even tempt the child of God. Therefore, God has taken the proper action to assure the believer's confidence! Romans 8:16 tells us, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”*

IV. Love's Test is Authenticated by our Obedience to Christ. I John 3:22-24

A. The test of the Saviour's love in the believer is manifested by the believer obeying Christ's word! vs. 22.

No one born of God practices sin or goes about looking for the next sin in which to get involved. (Read I John 3:8-10.) He keeps Christ's word and receives the blessings of answered prayers! (Read John 15:7).

B. The test of the Saviour's love in the believer is further authenticated by His abiding peace and fellowship that He gives to us! vs. 23-24

(Read John 13:34; 14:23; 15:10, 12; 17:3, 21). Beloved, love is the key to the Christian's life and we who are in Jesus' community should demonstrate its authenticating power daily!

CLOSING

In his declining years, the late Gen William Booth of the Salvation Army was called upon to send a letter to a Congress. His eyes were blind; he was aged and well stricken. As the Congress was near closing, a boy came up the aisle with an envelope. It was from General Booth. As the crowd waited anxiously, the officer opened the letter and there was only one word: **“OTHERS!”** This great man in his waning moments, desired those who show love through service to remember... **OTHERS!**

Beloved, the test of love will not be so much what we did for ourselves...But what we have done for others, stated so effectively in I John 3:14, *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...”*



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Looking Ahead:

April 12, 2015

I John 3:11-24



You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.