

Wk 8 CG 1 John 3:11-18

Read vs 1 John 3:11-15

In 1984, the famous American singer Tina Turner came out with a song called “What does love have to do with it?” John seems to be answering this question. Love has everything to do with it! Love however isn’t just a feeling. Real love is demonstrated by action. John starts us off telling us not to be like Cain. The story of Cain can be found in Genesis chapter 4. Cain just like his brother Abel offered sacrifices to the Lord but the Lord didn’t look with favor on Cain's offering. This caused Cain to become angry and kill his brother Abel. John tells us that Cain belonged to the evil one. So first off we see that Cain’s identity was not found in the Lord. John also gives us the reason why, In verse 12 it says because of his own actions and that they were evil. Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:20 that, by their fruit you will recognize them. The fruit that was produced by Cain was hatred and jealousy. The fruit that is produced by a follower of Jesus is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. This fruit is not manufactured, it is produced. It is produced by what (or Who) is in our heart.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the world's view of love? What is God's view of love?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to get a good definition of what (Who) love is. Remember God is love!
3. Is there any person or situation in your life where you are struggling with resentment or anger? How can you choose love and forgiveness instead of harboring hatred?

Read vs 16-18

John continues to give us a deeper understanding of what love is. He says love is laying down your life for others just as Jesus did. **What does it mean to lay down your life for someone else?** Again, this is not just telling someone how much you love them. It is showing it with our actions. We can love others by giving ourselves to meet the needs of others. This can be financial needs but it also can be giving our time, praying for one another and pouring into other people. As you watch the life of Jesus, He met the needs of people but He also spent time with them. Being a disciple of Jesus is following Jesus and doing what He did.

Discussion Questions:

1. Give an example of when you used your time or resources to help someone. What do you think the Lord was trying to teach you through that experience?
2. What is one area in your life where you can grow in showing love more actively?
3. Are there any relationships in your life where you need to go beyond just words and show love through actions?
4. How does understanding Christ’s sacrificial love motivate you to live out love in a more tangible way?

Announcements: YOUTH SUNDAY March 30th @10am