



LIVING THE LIFE "Walking in Love" 1 John 3:10b-24

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"Love" is a common theme both of Christian and secular thought and interest. Because of this, Christians need to be careful to understand the uniqueness of the love that characterizes the children of God: what it is, what it does, and what it says.

I. Love—What It Is. v. 16

- A. The need to know what love is.
 1. We need to know what it is because we may not have experienced it.
 2. We need to be clear what it is because there is much confusion about it.
 3. We need to understand the difference between human and divine love.
 4. We need to know what it is if we are to walk in it.
- B. "This is how we know what love is."
 1. "Jesus Christ laid down His life for us."
 2. "[God] sent His one and only Son...that we might live through Him." 4:9
 3. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us." 4:10a
 4. "This is love...[God] sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 4:10b

II. Love—What It Does.

- A. The message of love motivates those who receive it. vv. 11-13
 1. The message we "heard from the beginning"—that "God is love."
 2. The message that includes a moral imperative—"we should love."
 - a. The connection between "the evil one," "evil," "hatred," and "murder."
 - b. The connection between "God's love," "righteousness," and "loving."
- B. The example of Christ challenges those who follow Him. vv. 16-18
 1. Christianity is founded on a Savior who "laid down His life for us."
 2. Christians recognize that following Him means embracing a sacrificial lifestyle.
 3. Christian love is about "actions" not just "words." e.g. practical passion.

III. Love—What It Says.

- A. What love says to the Christian.
 1. "Because we love...**we know we have passed from death to life.**" The life is "eternal life." vv. 14-15; See John 5:24
 2. "This then is how **we know that we belong to the truth.**" The evidence is love in "actions." v. 19
 3. "This then...is how **we set our hearts at rest in His presence.**" v. 19
 - a. The problem of an uneasy conscience—"our hearts condemn us."
 - b. "God knows everything," including genuine love when He sees it.
 - c. He says it is evidence of spiritual reality.
 4. "This is how we know **He lives in us.**" Those in whom He lives obey Him, and love is the essence of obedience. v. 24

Point to Ponder: Do I know what real love is, what it does, and what it says?