

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

Lesson #8: “Love Leads Me to Lay Down My Life”

1 John 3:11-3:24

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Share a time when you were despised simply because you did the right thing.

Transition: As strange as it seems, there is a tremendous blessing and inner peace that comes from doing the right thing in the eyes of God.

The Bottom Line: Today's bottom line deals with the fact that love causes us to focus on the needs of others.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

(For the following question, you could play the song if you have it.)

Question – One of the most famous songs of all time is the Beatles, “All You Need is Love.” What is true about that statement? What is false about that statement? *(It is true that love covers a multitude of sins and leads us in a right direction. The world is a gentler place because of love. However, love is defined in a multitude of ways. Love is an strong affection. Is that enough? No. Love is a deep commitment? Is that enough? No. John writes in 1 John 4:8 that God is love. The song is only true if we are singing, “All you need is God.” In fact, since Jesus is the only way we know and have seen God, we can take it further. “All you need is Jesus. Do-n-do-da-do. All you need is Jesus. He is all you need.” Now we have a hit that will last throughout eternity.*

Read 1 John 3:11-15

1. What is the message have they heard from the beginning?

2. What beginning is John talking about?

⌚ (Write LOVE OF GOD on the board) How would you describe the love of God you have for other people?

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3. Why do you think John chose the example of Cain and Able to illustrate God's point about our responsibility to love one another? (
4. He says not to be surprised if the world hates you. How does that relate to Cain and Able?
- ④ What are some of the modern day sins created by disobedience to the command of God to love one another?
5. We were dead in our sins before we were raised to life with Christ. What is a sign that we were not actually raised from the death our sinful state caused us to live in?

If we hate our brother, we are a murderer. John is referring back to Cain whose heart caused him to commit murder. Hate leads us down a dangerous and often fatal path. This would be in perfect harmony with Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. Hate is from the Greek word MI-SE-Ō pronounced mih-she-oh. It means to have malicious and unjustifiable feelings toward others. Unresolved hate, malicious anger toward someone by a Christian is seen by God as murder and cannot be dwelling perpetually in a Christian's life. God will not tolerate hate. That is why Jesus told us to not allow the sun to go down on our anger and give the devil a foothold (Ephesians 4:26). God expects Christians to resolve conflict whenever it arises, which it always will at some point.

Read 1 John 3:16-20



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: (Be sure to allow plenty of time for this exercise) **How does John clearly explain the love he is teaching to us? Note the Role Model; the example of it by Christians; and the purpose behind this teaching. Once you have done that, lay out some examples of how that has been or could be done in your community.**

Read 1 John 3:21-24

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6. What do we receive from God in prayer?
7. What condition is placed on having the confidence to go before God and know my prayers will be answered?
8. Now, look back over 11-24 and list the ways mentioned that could condemn us. If we don't _____. If we _____ our brother. If we are apathetic towards our brothers and live selfish, self-centered lives. If we love only with words but without _____.

John gets very practical here. This text has been used for the “Health and Wealth” or the “Name it and Claim it” gospel. Taken literally and out of context, I can claim anything and God has to do it. Unfortunately, if my leg is amputated, I can pray till the cows come home for God to start growing me a new leg and it will keep my occupied the rest of my life, but I won’t grow a new leg. Scripture says that our requests must be presented in the name of Jesus so that He “may bring glory to the Father” (John 14:13). Jesus tells His disciples that He will grant what they ask for that results in Jesus’ glorifying the Father. God answers our requests when our objective is to glorify Him, to promote His rule and to do His will. That is a prayer from a pure heart. That prayer is answered.

⌚ What are some prayers you can lift up with confidence to God about your ministry in Christ or about the church's outreach?



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (John 14:15).