

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

## LOVE - IN DEED & IN TRUTH

### 1 John 3:16-18

Continuing today on the theme we began last Sunday (1 John 4:7-11):  
The love Christians are to have *for each other*.

#### 1. Jesus' "new" commandment – the "mark" of a Christian - John 13:34-35

3 important points to get:

- This is a **command** from our Lord & Savior, not a suggestion.  
Therefore we cannot excuse ourselves with "I don't *feel* like it."
- The love Jesus commands is a visible sign to the world  
that we truly trust and follow Him – the "mark" of a Christian.
- He sets the standard for our loving, "as I have loved you."

#### 2. We have seen this in 1 John 2 & 4 (review).

- That Christian believers must love each other = a command,  
2:7,8,10, 4:11.
- the standard for that love is set by God Himself – 4:9,10,  
in His giving of His Son for our salvation.
- In obedience to this love command we are assured that we truly  
belong to God, that "He abides in us," 4:12. (Why?)

So there is a lot of **repetition** here.

But **THAT** tells us how important this is to God & should be to us.

#### 3. New points in 3:11-18

In 3:11-18 the Holy Spirit sets true Christian love over against  
"hatred" and "word-only" pretense love.

##### a) Hatred – vv.11-15

- the hatred of Cain for Abel (murdered him – Genesis 4:1-8)  
Why? Because Abel's deeds (worship) were righteous and  
exposed Cain's sin & provoked his fierce jealousy.  
= a picture of the world's hatred of Christ & His followers  
(John 15:18-20).

- Don't be surprised if the world hates you. But pray for haters! v.15

##### b) Word-only pretense "love" – vv.17,18 - "**closes his heart**"

Genuine love:

- Sees Christ's love and imitates it – 3:16
- How far? As far as we can or must.

Practicalities:

2 factors: (i) see the need & (ii) have the means (Galatians 6:10).

Action: Love in deed & truth = give of self to meet the need!

This is not just a matter of goods & money,

But of time, sympathy, comfort, prayer, counsel, whatever the need.

**Romans 12:9-16.**

Not only does Christian love like this speak to the world, it speaks to us too:  
"By this we know that we are of the truth and assure our heart before Him".

**1 John 3:19**