

39 - 1 John 3:16-18 - 2019-03-03

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:11

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1-51

Sermon: "By This We Know Love" 1 John 3:16-18

Benediction: 1 Peter 3:8-9

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. (2) And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

1 John 3:16-18 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (17) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (18) My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

INTRODUCTION

The message we have heard from the beginning is that we should love one another. We who are the children of God know ourselves to be so because we do love the brothers. We also know that He who does not love his brother is not of God. Instead, he is of the devil, because it has been the devil's way from the beginning not to love, but to hate and murder, even as Cain murdered his brother.

We know what John means by loving one another because in other places in his letters he equates love with obeying God's commandments of love toward each other, as we studied last time.

Yet there is another way we know what John means by love toward one another, love for the brethren: **We know love because Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior laid down His life for us. And so we also ought to have the kind of love that moves us to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

TEXT

1 John 3:16-18

BODY

I. We Know that We Should Love the Brethren

- A. That is nothing new, nothing Jesus' disciples do not already know
- B. That has been our Lord's commandment to us from the beginning

II. We Know Love Because He Laid Down His Life for Us

A. He laid down His life for us

- 1. John means that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for us
- 2. he is referencing what the Lord Jesus said, John 10:11-18 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd ~~gives~~ **[lays down] His life** for the sheep. (12) But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. (13) The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. (14) I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. (15) As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I **lay down My life** for the sheep. (16) And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. (17) "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I **lay down My life** that I may take **it** again. (18) No one takes **it** from Me, but I **lay it down** of Myself. I have power **to lay it down**, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
- 3.
- 4.

B. By this we know love

- 1. John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
- 2.
- 3.

If we know that we should love the brethren; and
If we know love because He laid down His life for us,

III. Then We Know that We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for the Brethren

IV. But Do Not Think that An Expressed Willingness to Die Is the Test of Having Such Love

A. He died for us, but that is very rarely needed from us

1. It was not David's activity as a shepherd to risk death every day fighting bears and lions; that was rare; his daily activity was to feed the sheep; would he have been a good shepherd if he would not feed the sheep, but always maintained that he was willing to fight the lion and bear for them?
2. remember that Peter claimed to be willing to lay down his life for the Lord Jesus; in the moment of battle, he seemed willing, but later he was unwilling; the Lord Jesus came to him after the resurrection and put it to Peter that the kind of laying down his life required was not dying for the sheep, but feeding the sheep

B. He also lived for us, and that is always needed from us

V. Do Not Think that Words of Love Alone Are a Suitable Expression of Love

CONCLUSION

We know love because Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior laid down His life for us. And so we also ought to have the kind of love that moves us to lay down our lives for the brethren.

John 13:33-35 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. (34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Vulgate translates the word “to give” in 10:11, then “to lay down” in 15, 17, and 18. This was followed in Wycliffe, Tyndale, Geneva, KJV, and NKJV

ego sum pastor bonus bonus pastor animam suam dat pro ovibus
I am the shepherd good; good shepherd life his gives for sheep

JRY:

his brother is in need of basic spiritual necessities
-forgiveness; he has expressed repentance, leaving no doubt

there is forgiveness for lack of love to all who repent and believe in Jesus