

July 9, 2017
I John 3:16

A PORTRAIT OF LOVE

I. Introduction

This morning we begin a summer study on the book of First John.

A well known verse of I John: "God is Love." I John 4:8.

The Theme: As we understand the truth about God's love for us, we will be changed into lovers of others.

II. The Author: The Apostle John

- Wrote more books of the New Testament than anyone except the Apostle Paul
- Outlived all the other Apostles
- Nickname "The Apostle of _____"
- Used the word "love" more than any other Bible writer. _____ times in I John.
- His first nickname was "Son of _____"
- Lesson: Our _____ are not _____. We can _____.

III. The Key Word: _____

The Problem: Love is so hard to define.

IV The Key Verse:

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." I John 3:16

V. Life Changing Truths About Love From This Verse:

1. Real Love _____

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Chhrist laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” I John 3:16

3 Biblical words for love:

- Eros:
- Phileo:
- Agape:

2. Real Love _____

“...Jesus Christ laid down his life....”

3. Real Love _____

“.....laid down His life for us.....”

¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for^[c] our sins.” I John 4:10

4. Real Love _____

“....., and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of July 9th to 15th
I John 3:11-24

Open It

1. *Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to love?
2. Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to hate?

Explore It

3. What message had the readers of 1 John heard from the beginning? (3:11)
4. Why did Cain murder his brother? (3:12)
5. About what should believers not be surprised? (3:13)
6. How can a person know that he or she has passed from death to life? (3:14)
7. What is the result of hating one's brother? (3:15)
8. *How do we know what love is? (3:16)
9. What question did the author ask his readers? (3:17)
- 10.*How should Christians love? (3:18)
- 11.What is God greater than? (3:20)
- 12.What is the result of not being condemned by one's heart? (3:21-22)

13. What is God's command? (3:23)
14. *What is the result of obeying God's command? (3:24)
15. How do believers know that God lives in them? (3:24)

Get It

16. How does the world hate believers today?
17. When have you experienced the hatred of the world?
18. What does it mean to love one's brother?
19. *When do you struggle with loving other Christians?
20. *How do you demonstrate your love for fellow believers?
21. Why do we struggle with loving other Christians with our material possessions?
22. Why is it easier to love with words rather than actions?
23. In what way does love result in life, and hate result in death?

Apply It

24. *For what fellow Christian whom you have difficulty loving will you do something kind this week?
25. How can you use your material possessions to love another believer this week?
26. What specific step will you take this week to put your love for another Christian into action?