

2-21-2024 -Belonging to Jesus/Living in Love

Intro: C-mas commercial. Hobby Lobby, mom. Laundry. Dishes. Decorate.

As Kids, we knew what pleased our parents. To show our love . . . we did...

As Adults, in relationships, we know what pleases our partner/spouse.

Love is in our actions. Our Love shows we belong to Jesus.

1 John 2 – CEV - “My children, I am writing this so you won't sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, and he will speak to the Father for us. ²Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the world's people. ³When we obey God, we are sure we know him. ⁴But if we claim to know him and don't obey him, we are lying and the truth isn't in our hearts. ⁵We truly love God only when we obey him as we should, and then we know we belong to him. ⁶If we say we are his, we must follow the example of Christ.”

- John reminds us: **we'll fail**. Sin sometimes. But... desire to please.
 - o Truly know God? Can't help but please God. Follow Jesus' example.
 - o Our actions show our relationship w/God. So do our words.

1 John 2 - ⁹If we claim to be in the light & hate someone, we are still in the dark. ¹⁰But if we love others, we are in the light, & *we don't cause problems for them.*”

- **John 1:4** – “In Him was life, and that life was the light of the world.”
- Jesus: “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **John 9:5 (blind)**
 - o When saying “I'm the light” – Jesus healed blindness. **Act of love.**
 - It's a metaphor – symbolic: **Love lights up this world.**
 - o We are called to be “the light of the world.” City on a Hill. **Matt. 5:14**
 - “Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become **children of light.**” – **John 12:36**
- If we love others, ... we don't cause problems.
 - o In relationships: Pick up clothes. Dishes. Clean messes. Help.
 - o Love doesn't say “not my problem” . . . uncaring. All matter.
 - “We're in this together.” Save the lifeboat. Gestures matter.
 - o 1 Cor. 13 – “Love is patient. Kind. Not rude. Selfish, or irritable.

1 John 2:29 - You know Christ always does right and everyone who does right is a child of God.”

- **1 John 3:1** – “Think how much the Father loves us. He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children, as we truly are.”

- As God's children, saved by Jesus, we can't keep on sinning. – **vs. 6** –
 “People who stay one in their hearts with Him won't keep on sinning.”
 - o John says – knowing Jesus – God's love – should have **Changed lives**.
 - o Black/white. Dark/light. Our actions show who we belong to:

1 John 3:7-10 – “⁷Children, don't be fooled. Anyone who does right is good, just like Christ himself. ⁸Anyone who keeps on sinning belongs to the devil. He has sinned from the beginning, but the Son of God came to destroy all that he has done. ⁹God's children cannot keep on being sinful. His life-giving power lives in them and makes them his children, so they cannot keep on sinning. ¹⁰You can tell God's children from the devil's children, because those who belong to the devil refuse to do right or to love each other.”

- We have the power to live changed lives – God's **seed** is in us: Holy Spirit
- Living with that Spirit - They'll know we are Christians by our love.
 - o **John 13:35** – “If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.”
- How we treat each other should be different.
 - o **Luke 6:35** – “But love your enemies **and be good to them**. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven. *He is good* even to people who are unthankful and cruel.”
- **Love is shown in being good to people**. All people.

1 John 3:16-18 – ¹⁶We know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us. This is why we must give our lives for each other. ¹⁷If we have all we need and see one of our own people in need, we must have pity on that person, or else we cannot say we love God. ¹⁸Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.”

- Our challenge is in living out a simple instruction – love each other.
- We can't do it by trying harder. We do it by getting closer to God's love.

1 John 3:23 – “²³ God wants us to have faith in his Son Jesus Christ and to love each other. This is also what Jesus taught us to do.”

- How we love shows who we belong to. God is love. Children of Light?

Song of the week: “Love One Another” (Tommy Walker)