

The Transforming Love of God

Text: 1 John 3:16-18

Topics: Sacrifice, Benevolence, Action

Series: Bold Assurance

South Orlando Baptist Church

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The Love of God transforms you to...

1. Lay down your life for your _____ (1 John 3:16)
 - A. Because Jesus gave his life for us, we ought to give our lives for one another.
 - B. The expression of Jesus "laying down his life for us" is a strong theme in John's writings. (John 10:11, 15, 17, 18; 13:37, 38; 15:13)
 - C. "When the honor of God's name, the advancement of his church, and the need of his people demand that we love our brothers, we ought to show our love at all cost—even to the point of risking and losing our lives." Simon Kistemaker

2. Live _____ (1 John 3:17)
 - A. Clearly, the more difficult call is to lay one's life down for another. It is a lesser demand to help a brother in need. (Danny Akin)
 - B. James 2:15–16 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (ESV)
 - C. Are you generous when you discern that a brother or sister is in genuine need?

3. Love with truth and _____ (1 John 3:17)
 - A. The words that we speak as Christians must correspond to our actions.
 - B. Love is 'the willingness to surrender that which has value for our own life, to enrich the life of another' (Dodd).
 - C. We must make sure that we show love and share the truth of the Gospel.

Love without Truth is _____

Truth Without Love is _____

Application Questions

- 1. How do we know what love is? (3:16)**
- 2. What question did the author ask his readers? (3:17)**
- 3. How should Christians love? (3:18)**
- 4. When do you struggle with loving other Christians?**
- 5. How do you demonstrate your love for fellow believers?**
- 6. Why do we struggle with loving other Christians with our material possessions?**
- 7. Why is it easier to love with words rather than actions?**
- 8. How can you use your material possessions to love another believer this week?**
- 9. What specific step will you take this week to put your love for another Christian into action?**

Jesus Laying Down His Life in the Gospel of John:

John 10:11 (ESV)

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:15 (ESV)

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:17-18 (ESV)

17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

John 15:13 (ESV)

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.