

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

James M. Duncan, Pastor

MAY 15, 2022

## LOVE EXPRESSED LOVE EXPERIENCED

### I JOHN 3:16-23

The story of a young man was sweet on a girl, and he had overheard her talking to her friends how she loved roses. That old boy expressed love and experienced love. What does it truly mean to express love? What does it truly mean to experience love?

John declared what true love is and what true love does. **God's love is expressed through the Savior sacrifice and experienced through the saint's service.** Are we experiencing God's love? Are we expressing God's love? This text reveals some fundamentals about love expressed and love experienced.

#### I. THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE. (Vs. 16-18)

##### A. IS SEEN IN HIS PASSION. (Vs. 16)

1. **Jesus' Accomplishment. (Vs. 16a)** - John is talking about Divine love. God's love is the subject at hand. Jesus laid down His life for us. He accomplished salvation for us, and the knowledge of that salvation is given to us. Jesus didn't lay down His life for political reasons, social reasons, but he laid down His life for eternal reasons

2. **John's Argument. (Vs. 16b)** - John concludes from the fact that Jesus gave His life for us, that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we should be willing to give our lives for one another. "**Ought**": speaks of a moral obligation. John makes a strong argument that cannot be thwarted because he wrote under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

##### B. IT IS SEEN IN OUR PRACTICE. (Vs. 17-18)

The truth about love is seen in our practice. John asks a powerful question intended to cause us to evaluate our lives by what we know about the love of God. Is the love of God abiding in you? If it, is it will not only be heard, but it will also be seen. Helping others in need is sometimes inconvenient, uncomfortable, costly, demanding, and unappreciated, but God calls for us to love in a practical way. John exhorts the church to put their Christianity into practice. We are to be active in our faith. The Word of God commands us to love in deed and in truth. We are to use all we have to show the love of Jesus to this world.

## II. THE TEST FROM OUR LORD (Vs. 19-23)

### A. Do We Have Assurance in His Presence? (Vs. 19-20)

We know that we are of the truth because we have heard the word of the Lord and we have heeded the word of the Lord. We practice the truth because we live according to the standards of the word of God. As Christians when our hearts find fault with us it is because we have fallen short of God's standard and we have sinned.

### B. DO WE HAVE ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS? (21-22)

When we know that we have obeyed the Lord Jesus: done what He wanted us to do, said what He wanted us to say, given what He wanted us to give, went where He wanted us to go, and lived as He wanted us to live, then our hearts have great confidence in coming to the Lord in prayer. **Sam Gordon said,** "*It is not what I want for my life, it is what He wants for my life. When our desires and aspirations are in sync with His, then our prayers will be answered and God will receive all the praise and glory.*" Answer to prayer is not a reward for keeping God's commandments, but it is a result of keeping God's commandments.

### C. HAVE WE ACCEPTED HIS PERSON? (Vs. 23-24)

John reveals the greatest commandment in **verse 23**. If we have not obeyed this commandment, then we can never really obey the rest of the commandments. We are commanded to "**believe**". When we have received the first part of this commandment then we will be obedient to the second part as well. We are commanded to love one another as He gave us commandment. Listen to me that Right belief will result in right behavior.

**Verse 24** tells us how we can know that He abides in us, that is lives and has a powerful presence in our lives and the Holy Spirit bears witness to this glorious truth.

Are we experiencing God's love? Do we have assurance in His presence? Do we have answers to our prayers? Have we accepted His person? Salvation is a personal decision. When we belief on the name of the Lord Jesus we are saved and changed forever.

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