

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Love for Real

Speaker:

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Date:

January 2, 2022

Scriptures:

1 John 3:16-18

Theme: He laid down his life for us so we must love in deed and in truth.

Introduction: An accurate self-perception can be difficult. Just as Peter promised to be faithful to Jesus right before he denied him 3 times, so also we can think more highly of ourselves than we ought. James used the illustration of a mirror to show just this point (James 1:22-25). As God's people we must use the mirror of God's word in order to respond rightly to his truth. Here, John continues to help us to understand the nature of love within the church and to evaluate our love according to God's standard.

Here are 2 ways that we see the priority of love in God's church:

1. We know love (16)

Belonging to Christ is marked by love for one another.

Jesus' love for us, especially in his death, serves as the model and motive for our love for one another.

The image of the Good Shepherd is one way the Lord communicated the depth of his affection and commitment for his people.

Our love for one another is also seen in self-giving, as we lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

To have his love means to share his love.

2. We show love (17-18)

How are we called to show love? Is it a call to an incredibly lofty and difficult task? Not at all.

There are many tangible and practical ways that the church is called to love one another.

As we do so, we reveal that God's love abides in us and we testify to his grace.

We reveal the state of our hearts.

To be open-hearted to the Lord is to be open-hearted in our love for our brothers.

Questions:

1. How well do you know the Lord's love? Are you regularly experiencing his forgiveness and grace?

2. Are you open-hearted to your brothers and sisters?

3. How do you show love for your brothers and sisters?