



Just Love + Action | 1 John 3:11-20

May 25, 2025

By Pastor Josiah Kish

Group Leader Notes

Welcome to the 5th message of our sermon series, *Just Love: Living out the Vision of 1 John*. In this letter to the church in Ephesus, John explains how we are to follow Christ by loving others with the same sacrificial love Jesus has shown to us. Whether you are here for the first time or you have been following Christ for a long time, Pastor Josiah will explain how we can test ourselves through our own actions and not just our words.

Question: How do you know that you are truly alive in Christ?

Bottom Line: Jesus calls us to be people of loving action.

Take Home Message:

Love requires more than idle talk or exalted theology. It demands simple acts, which anyone can see, that meet the needs of brothers and sisters in distress. - Expositor's Bible Commentary

Main Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:11-20

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters,^[a] if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ This 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 and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Pastor Josiah said that one way to spot hatred within yourself is when you see the other person as:
 - An obstacle that you need to overcome
 - An opponent to attack
 - A monster you need to avoid or hide from

Is there anyone in your life (present or past) who has become an obstacle, opponent or a monster? Ask a volunteer to explain the context of their relationship, why it was adversarial, and what eventually happened to that relationship.

2. Pastor Josiah said that forgiveness takes time and is different than reconciliation? Look up the meaning of these words. Spend a few minutes discussing how different they are.
3. The English poet William Blake said, "We become what we behold." As disciples of Jesus, how can we apply this concept to our daily practices?
4. Some people have observed that Christians do a lot of talking and but have little to no action. While this feels like an unfair generalization as we can come up with countless instances of love and action. That said, what observations have you made between these tensions of talk and action?
5. Pastor Josiah mentioned several ministries here at our own church in need of volunteers:
 - a. Kidstown
 - b. Benevolence Ministry
 - c. Stephen Ministry
 - d. Foster Care Initiative

Ask your group what ministries they are or have been involved in and share their experiences with the group.

6. Pastor Josiah concluded his sermon with a guide to create peace in your relationships by Ken Sande:
 - (a) Seek to glorify God: Pause and ask God to move through this conflict.
 - (b) Get the log out of your own eye: Admit your own contribution to the conflict.
 - (c) Gently restore: Go to the other person, speak truthfully and confess any sin you have contributed.
 - (d) Be reconciled: Build the relationship back.

If there are any relationships that are in need of repair, reconciliation and/ or forgiveness, share them with you group and pray for healing together.

Let's Pray