

Love's Last Stand (1John 4:7-21)

Introduction

“This is His *commandment*: that we should *believe* on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and *love* one another, as He gave us *commandment*” (3:18). These things are so completely intertwined, obeying God’s commandments, believing in Christ, and loving one another, that there simply is no true Christianity without them.

Review: Rehearsing the reasons to love

- 1. The New Birth:** *We’ve been born of the God of Love (v. 7-8)*
- 2. Gratitude:** *God has shown love to the loveless in giving his Son (v. 9-11)*
- 3. Fulfillment:** *We are to make visible the love of the invisible God (v. 12)*
- 4. Assurance:** *This is how we know that we abide in God (v. 13-16)*
- 5. Boldness (in the Day of Judgment):** *Love casts out fear (v. 17-18)*
- 6. Reciprocation:** *We’re just showing the love God showed us first (v. 19)*
- 7. Integrity:** *There’s no love for an invisible God without loving our visible brothers (v. 20)*
- 8. Obedience:** *God has commanded us to love one another (v. 21)*

“Sir, you just preached that same message to us three times.” And he said, “When you start obeying it, I’ll stop preaching it!”

“There are some men and women that have lived forty or fifty years in the world, and have scarce had one hour’s discourse with their own hearts all that while. It is a hard thing to bring a man and himself together upon such an account” (John Flavel).

Application

- Christian marriage is the proving ground of love for you who are married.
- Children are called to love are those in your own home, your real Christian brothers and sisters, mother and father.
- Friendships here are to be gospel friendships, friendships that are fundamentally grounded in the love God has given us, God has shown us, and God has commanded us.

Conclusion

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (3:16).