

Sunday, June 25, 2023

In Deed

1 John 3:11-18, pg 1022

Main Point- **Affirmation leads to action**

Vs. 11, We are people of love.

-We love our neighbor- Good Samaritan. General love for humanity that goes beyond loving people who love you, but people WAY different than you!

-We love each other- The church

-We give our lives to what Jesus gave his life for- The church!

as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25

-Test of affirmation, Does the love of God you have believed & received cause you to love others? Neighbors and the family of God.

Vs. 12-13, If you are people of love, you might not be liked!

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." Genesis 4:6

Jesus ruled over sin and death! Therefore we are set free to "do well". Others live conflicted and unable to "do well". Sin has it's way.

Imperative- Don't be surprised, which should surprise us!

-Our commands found in our context are 2:24, Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you, in 2:27 & 28 Abide in Jesus 2x, Behold the love of God in 3:1, let no one deceive you in 3:7, and now, don't be surprised in 3:13.

When we abide and behold who God is and what he has done as his kids, then we will live differently!

Affirmation leads to action

Vs. 14a Out of death into life!

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. Romans 6:13

"We" is emphatic, showing a distinction from the general love we have for humanity, love your neighbor, to a specific love for the people of God. In short, WE know because WE love the family of God. Where am I getting "the family of God"? The word brothers, which is translated "brothers and sisters".

-The AMP says, *We know that we have passed over out of death into Life by the fact that we love the brethren (our fellow Christians).*

-New American Commentary says, *"John's use of the emphatic "we" marks the distinct contrast between the children of the devil who hate and the child of God, who is characterized by his love for the family of God."*

Which is our context, Read vs. 10

We live in tough times... Covid and isolation, political polarization, group identity, and other narratives that have made there way into the church make it hard. That's on top what existed before things heated up; hurt in the church, manipulation, scandal, spiritual abuse. Yet the scriptures are clear, with grace I say, if people say they love God, yet do not attend a local community, there is a pause in the affirmation of eternal life. That's John point throughout, tests of affirmation. God is light, if you say you are Christian then you will walk in the ___? God is love, if you say you are a believer, you will walk in___? A general love for humanity AND a specific love for the family of God, the church!

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

Affirmation leads to action

Read 14b-15. It will be obvious over time. Am I saying that if you don't go to church regularly you are a murderer? The text seems to think so... but Maybe not, like with any Christian sooner or later YOU WILL be conformed to the image of the son. How does this Christian maturity take place, in the local church. I didn't set it up this way, God did. So, with grace, we exhort those who are on the fringes. How? With love!!!

Affirmation leads to action. This means if you affirm you are a Christian, you WILL walk as Christ walks and love what Christ loves and there is NO DOUBT how much he loves his kids... and that's us!

Read 16- Refers back to Jesus→ GOSPEL

-And then defines what Christian love is; laying our lives down for one another!

What does this look like? In Deed and truth!

Read 17-18

Affirmation leads to action.

-Work out and diet example. We can affirm it, but if we never do it, it will not produce anything. Which, in regards to Christian the Christian faith, if you affirm but there is no life change, maybe you don't REALLY believe what you say you affirm, because if you did, it leads to a changed life.

Address unbelievers

Application.

Do not be surprised that your shining light will cause others to flinch.

Jesus loves the church.

We love the church.

How? We give our lives to one another in love! In deed and in truth!

And it starts with faith in Christ. Have those getting baptized prepare.

Introduce **Kim Mahr, one of our missionaries who is now with Jesus.**

Fred to come up.

Study Notes

1 John 3:11-18

Main Point- Affirmation leads to Action

Key Words-Love 5x, Know 3x, Life 3x

Key Verse- Vs. 18

FCF-Evil deeds, jealousy, unloving→ hate. No love of the Church.

General God Key Words Command Truth Sin

[11] For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. [12] We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. [13] Do not be surprised, brothers,¹ that the world hates you. [14] We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. [15] Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

[16] By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. [17] But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? [18] Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Initial Thoughts.

Vs. 11. Verse 10b is the transition to this section- *nor is the one who does not love his brother*. This circles back to 2:7-11 and it's picked back up in (1 John 4:7, 11, 12)

What's interesting about this "command"; it's in the indicative every time it's used. There isn't a command to "love one another" except in 4:7² and even then it's debated. The Greek grammar is similar to 4:11, "we love" instead of "let us" BUT the context gives way to the translators making it an imperative. ([See article](#))

¹ 3:13 Or *brothers and sisters*. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, the plural Greek word *adelphoi* (translated "brothers") may refer either to *brothers* or to *brothers and sisters*; also verses 14, 16

² **Beloved, let us love:** *The ancient Greek sentence begins in a striking way — agapetoi agapomen, "those who are loved, let us love." We are not commanded to love one another to earn or become worthy of God's love. We love one another because we are loved by God, and have received that love, and live in light of it.* David Guzik, Blue Letter Bible Study Guide

There is also a hyperlink to 2:5 by the use of the word "message". It's only used 2x in the entirety of the letter and seems to be no coincidence. (See greek below)

Greek

Message: the content of what has been announced—'message, announcement.'³

The word comes from the root word that means "angel". It can be used as a simple message but can mean, as John seems to intend, a divine message. This form of the word is only used in 1 John.

In view of the strong emphasis placed upon the concept of message as a sacral concept in NT days it is necessary to subject the individual words deriving from the root ἀγγελ- to a close historical examination. Only then can we appreciate the distinctive pregnancy of the NT words.

Hence it is no accident that in 3:11 the same sonorous word is used as in 1:5. Proclamation includes both news about God and command. In 1:5 it is the Word of Jesus that is meant, in 3:11 the preaching (μαρτυρία) which underlies the community (ἀρχή). The two coincide for the author. There is explicit statement in 1:5 (ἀκηκόαμεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναγγέλλομεν ὑμῖν), whereas in 3:11 there is no more than indication through the parallels in 2:7 f. and Jn. 13:34.⁴

Commentary

Vs. 11

John begins a new section with a positive reminder about love. "The beginning" likely refers to when his readers first heard the gospel message. John 13:34-35 offers the first time Jesus made this statement: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

³ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

⁴ Schniewind, J. (1964-). [ἀγγελία, ἀγγέλλω, ἀν-, ἀπ-, δι-, ἐξ-, κατ-, προκαταγγέλλω, καταγγελεύς](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament*

Jesus mentions this command to "love one another" again in John 15:12 and 17. Paul mentions its importance in Romans 12:10 and 1 Thessalonians 4:9. Peter notes believers are to "love one another" in 1 Peter 1:22. John develops this theme throughout this chapter (1 John 3:11, 23) as well as the next (1 John 4:7, 11, 12), mentioning it again in 2 John 1:5.

The fact that John directs this statement to those who have heard this message already is an important piece of context. The points raised in the previous section are important in examining one's own faith, but—technically—they are warnings given to saved believers.