

Love One Another

1 John 2:7-11; 3:11-18; 4:7-21

1. "Love One Another" – Jesus' command, John's emphasis, and the primary fruit of the Spirit (2:7-8)
 - A. A new/old command and expectation with no asterisk or fine print
 1. Few things in scripture are as black and white as the necessity of love, yet love is often placed aside for other subjective evidences (behaviors, positions, etc.)
 2. The command to love is not a Johannine innovation, yet it is a fresh, Christ-centered reiteration of eternal truth
 - B. God's people are to love, just as God is love
2. "By this we know love" – Love is defined by Christ's ultimate sacrifice (3:16; 4:9-10)
 - A. Ultimate selfishness – murder (3:12-15)
 - B. Ultimate *selflessness* – sacrifice (3:16-18)
 - C. The Gospel: God's love manifest to the world
 1. Our motivation to love one another (4:11)
 2. The only way to become loving is to embrace the gospel
3. The *first and foremost* evidence of true faith is love for the brethren
 - A. Love proves you are in the light (2:9-11; 3:11)
 - B. Love proves you have been passed from death to life (3:14-15)
 - C. Love proves you have been born of God and know God (4:7-8, 16)
 - D. Love displays the reality of God (4:12)
 - E. Love for others proves your love for God (4:20-21)
 - F. Examine yourself: do you *love* the brethren with a Christ-defined love?