

## Sunday Morning Message

May 2, 2021

1 John 3:1 - 12

*Positional Righteousness Pushing Us Unto Practical Righteousness*

*Part Two – Loving Rightly*

Series – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> John

Text – 1 John 3:11 - 24

Congregational Reading – 1 John 3:16 - 18

### Introduction

The two main thoughts of chapter three were introduced back in concluding verses of chapter two:

*"(28) And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (29) If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." (1 John 2:28-29)*

### Read verses 1 – 10 and review the last message:

In chapter three, John discusses the righteousness of God, which dwells within each believer in what the Bible refers to as “the new man” (Ephesians 4:24. Colossians 3:10), or the “new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The new man or new creature is actually a new nature given to the believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. This new nature is imparted to us through the new birth (John 3).

When a person trusts Christ as Saviour and is saved, his spirit, which was dead in trespasses and sins was quickened or given life to by the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. He is now a new creature in Christ, and has a new nature. This new nature is sinless and completely holy and righteous: it is the nature of God. This is what the Bible refers to as imputed righteousness:

*"(21) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:"*  
(Romans 3:21-22)

As we discussed in the last message, the problem is that your old, Adamic, sinful nature is also still present. Now you have two natures within you that are at war with each other. God, who is perfect and sinless, is drawing you to holiness; while the old man still wants to do what it wants to do (see Romans 7:14 – 25).

Last week, we examined 1 John 3:1 – 10 and we talked about how that if a person is truly saved, the new nature within him, will push him (drive him) toward living a life that is surrendered to the will of God and filled with God's Holy Spirit.

**Transition** – In the remaining verses of this chapter, John tells us that this new nature within us will also cause us to have a love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul said that love is the ultimate fulfillment of the Law.

"(8) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (9) For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:8-10)

#### I. The Contradiction of Love (vs. 11 – 15)

*"(10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." (1 John 3:10)*

Verse ten is transitional – it brings us from the first main idea of the first part of the chapter, which is living righteously, to the second thought – loving rightly. Notice that John makes the declaration that truly saved people will live righteously and love their brothers and sisters in Christ. Why – because God lives within us and he has given us a new nature. The saved new man within us does not commit sin; nor does he hate people. It is only in our flesh that we are capable of doing those things.

*"(18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." (Romans 7:18)*

*"(11) For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." (1 John 3:11)*

Loving people is not a new message. Way back in the Law of Moses, it was commanded: *"(18) Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD."* (Leviticus 19:18)

Jesus amplified the Old Testament, when He said:

*"(43) Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (44) But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (45) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (46) For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? (48) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* (Matthew 5:43-48)

Jesus also said that we who are believers should especially love our brothers and sisters in Christ:

*"(34) A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* (John 13:34-35)

*"(12) This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ... (17) These things I command you, that ye love one another."* (John 15:12, 17)

Turn to 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13 – love is more important than spiritual gifts.

A. Cain (v. 12)

*"(12) Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."* (1 John 3:12)

See Genesis 4:1 – 8 - Cain was very envious of his brother.

B. The World (v. 13)

*"(13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."* (1 John 3:13)

The world does not love you, and you should not love the world. Love people – even lost people – even your enemies; but don't love the things that they love to do.

*"(18) If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:18-19)*

*"(14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (1 John 3:14-15)*

Jesus said:

*"(21) Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: (22) But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." (Matthew 5:21-22)*

Paul was a murderer; Moses was a murderer; David was a murderer. Peter attempted murder with Malchus (He wasn't aiming for his ear.). God is not saying that a murderer cannot be forgiven, but He is saying that hatred and murder are inconsistent with your new nature. This is what Galatians states in chapter five. Notice the contrast between what your old nature does as opposed to what God the Holy Spirit wants to do through your new nature.

*"(19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (24) And they that are Christ's have crucified*

*the flesh with the affections and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:19-25)*

## II. The Application of Love (vs. 16 – 18)

*"(16) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 John 3:16)*

Love is willing to sacrifice for the object of its love.

*"(13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)*

*"(17) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18)*

Love in this sense is not mere feeling and it is not just words; it is action. Love does what is necessary to meet the needs of others.

## III. The Verification of Love (vs. 19 – 22)

*"(19) And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. (20) For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. (21) Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." (1 John 3:19-21)*

Here again, John refers to the presence of these characteristics as evidence that God is really in you, working through you via His Holy Spirit.

Notice also (almost parenthetically), God also indicates that because we are truly His children who are trying to please Him by living for Him and loving for Him, He now delights in answering our prayers.

*"(22) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (1 John 3:22)*

Why does God not have a problem with answering these prayer requests? Because they are asked unselfishly from our within our new man; they are not asked to satisfy

some sinful, fleshly desire. They are asked for the purpose of fulfilling God's will and meeting the needs of others.

## Conclusion (vs. 23 – 24)

John concludes the main themes of this chapter in vs. 23 – 24:

*"(23) And 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. (24) And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."* (1 John 3:23-24)

Notice – one of the greatest indicators of real faith is the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God within the life of the believer.

*"(16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"*  
(Romans 8:16)

## Practical Thoughts

**1. Love Sacrifices (see v. 17)** – “You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”

*"(16) For God **so loved** the world, **that he gave** his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

Laying down your life does not just mean that you are willing to die for people, it also includes being willing to sacrifice in many other ways.

We really don't have too much of a problem giving and sacrificing for the people we love, but what we need to work on is broadening that group of people that we love enough that we are willing to sacrifice for. God says that we are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ in that way.

**2. Love Stands for the Truth**

*"(15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"* (Ephesians 4:15)

*"(6) Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."*  
(Proverbs 27:6)

The best thing that you can do for your brothers and sisters in Christ here at the church is to just keep standing for the Lord. Don't allow yourself to be lured out of the will of God by the devil. Don't change doctrinally – don't waver:

*"... he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." (James 1:6)*

*"(14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" (Ephesians 4:14)*

Jesus is the same: yesterday, today, and forever – so should we be the same.

### **3. Love Submits**

*"(21) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." (Ephesians 5:21)*

We need to be willing to surrender our will at times to the will of others. I do not have to get my way or my wish all of the time. If I love my brother, I am perfectly happy to allow him to have his way.

### **Illustrations**

Joseph Reyes came over to my house every day when my wife, and Hannah and I had COVID just to check on us and make sure that we were OK.

When the pandemic first hit and the stores were out of paper products and cleaning supplies, Brother Bob would go to Shop Rite and other stores early every morning, and then distribute what he could find to people in the church.

Friday, a bunch of people from our church drove down to Bowie, MD in order to participate in Wade and Estefanny's wedding. They had to bring all kinds of stuff with them; they had to help set up, and then after the wedding, they had to help take it all down. Then they had to bring all of our sound equipment back last night and get it working again here. It was a lot of work. Why did they do it? Because they love Wade and Estefanny.

## Translation Work

### 1 John 3:11

**“Ὅτι αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἀγγελία ἣν ἠκούσατε ἀπ’ ἀρχῆς,**

That or because / this / is / message / that / you all have heard / from / the beginning  
ἠκούσατε – 2<sup>nd</sup> Per. Plu. Aor. Act. Ind.

**ἵνα ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους:**

in order that / we should love / one another

ἀγαπῶμεν – 1<sup>st</sup>. Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Subj.

**Translation – Because this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.**

**Exegetical Comments** - The subjective mood is indicated by the “should.”

### 1 John 3:12

**οὐ καθὼς Κάϊν ἐκ τοῦ πονηροῦ ἦν,**

not / just as / Cain (proper name) / from / evil or wicked (Adj. Gen. Sing. Masc.) / he she or it was

**καὶ ἔσφαξεν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ.**

And / killed, slaughtered, murdered / the brother / his

ἔσφαξεν – 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Aor. Act. Ind.

**καὶ χάριν τίνος ἔσφαξεν (see above) αὐτόν;**

and / for what reason / murdered / him

“χάριν τίνος” – for what reason

ὅτι τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ πονηρὰ ἦν,

that or because / the works / his / wicked / he, she, or it was

τὰ δὲ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ αὐτοῦ δίκαια.

The [works see above] / but / the brother / his / righteous

Not as Cain who was from the wicked one and murdered his brother. And, why did he murder him; because his works were wicked, his brother’s works were righteous.

### 1 John 3:13

**μὴ θαυμάζετε ἀδελφοί μου,**

not / marvel or wonder / brothers / my

θαυμάζετε – Imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act.

**εἰ μισεῖ ὑμᾶς ὁ κόσμος:**

if / hate / you all / the world (Nominative)

μισεῖ - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Per. Sing. Pres. Act. Ind.

**Translation – Don’t be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.**



**Exegetical Comments** – θαυμάζετε is Imperative; the world is nominative, indicating that it is the subject, not the direct object.

### **1 John 3:14**

**ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι μεταβεβήκαμεν ἐκ τοῦ θανάτου εἰς τὴν ζωὴν,**

We / know / that or because / we have passed over / from / death / into / the life

οἶδαμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Erf. Act. Ind.; μεταβεβήκαμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Ind

**ὅτι ἀγαπῶμεν τοὺς ἀδελφούς.**

That or because / we love / the brothers or brethren

ἀγαπῶμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Ind.

**ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν τὸν ἀδελφόν,**

that or whom / not / he who loves / his brother (singular)

ἀγαπῶν – Pres. Act. Part. Nom. Sing. Masc.

**μένει ἐν τῷ θανάτῳ.**

Abides or remains in the death

μένει – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Per. Sing. Pres. Act, Ind.

**Translation – We know that we have passed over from death into life because we love our brothers.**

**Whosoever does not love his brother abides in death.**

**Exegetical Comments** – Here we find one of the evidences of biblical salvation – a love for the brethren.

Because of our flesh, we cannot love perfectly, but we should have a desire because of the indwelling Spirit of God to love in action (not necessarily feeling) our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **1 John 3:15**

**πᾶς ὁ μισῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἀνθρωποκτόνος ἐστὶ:**

Each or every / whom or that / hates / the brother / his / Adjective murderer / is

μισῶν – Pres. Part. Sing.

**καὶ οἶδατε ὅτι πᾶς ἀνθρωποκτόνος οὐκ ἔχει ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἐν αὐτῷ μένουσαν.**

And / you all know or understand / that or because / murderer / no / has / life / eternal / in / him / abiding

ἔχει – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Per. Sing. Pres. Act. Ind.; μένουσαν – Pres. Act. Part. Acc. Sing. Fem.

**Translation – Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you all understand that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.**

### **1 John 3:16**

**ἐν τούτῳ ἐγνώκαμεν τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ θεοῦ,**

in / this / we perceive or understand / the love / of God

ἐγνώκαμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Ind.

**ὅτι ἐκεῖνος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ ἔθηκε:**

that or because / he / for / us / life / his / lay down

ἔθηκε – 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Aor. Act. Ind.

**καὶ ἡμεῖς ὀφείλομεν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἀδελφῶν τὰς ψυχὰς τιθέναι.**

And / we / ought or owe / for / the brothers / lives / to put down our lives

ὀφείλομεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Ind.; τιθέναι – Pres. Act. Inf.

**Translation – In this we understand the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, and we ought also to lay down our lives for the brethren (or our brothers and sisters)**

**Exegetical Comment** - ἔθηκε and τιθέναι are both translated “lay down.” Both are forms of the word, τίθημι.

### 1 John 3:17

**ὃς δ’ ἂν ἔχη τὸν βίον τοῦ κόσμου,**

whoso / but / has / good things / of the world

ἔχη - 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Subj. Pres. Act.

**καὶ θεωρῆ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ χρεῖαν ἔχοντα,**

and / sees / the brother / his / has need / have

θεωρῆ - Pres. Act. Subj. 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing.; ἔχοντα – Pres. Act. Part. Sing.

**καὶ κλείσῃ τὰ σπλάγχνα αὐτοῦ ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ,**

and / shuts / bowels (Plural) / his / from / him

κλείσῃ - Aor. Act. Subj. 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing.

**πῶς ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ μένει ἐν αὐτῷ;**

how / the love / of God / abides / in / him

**Translation – But whoever has the good things of this world and sees that his brother has a need, and shuts off his compassion from him, how does the love of God abide in him.**

### 1 John 3:18

**Τεκνία μου,**

Children my,

**μὴ ἀγαπῶμεν λόγῳ μηδὲ γλώσση,**

not / we should love / words / neither / tongue

ἀγαπῶμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Subj.

**ἀλλ’ ἔργῳ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ.**

But / works / and / truth

**Translation - My children, we should not love in words or tongue, but in deeds and truth.**

### 1 John 3:19

**Καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐκ τῆς ἀληθείας ἐσμέν,**

And / in / him / we know / that or because / from or of / the truth / we are

**καὶ ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πείσομεν τὰς καρδίας ἡμῶν,**

and / before / him / will or shall assure / the heart / our or us

πέισομεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Future Act. Ind.

**Translation – And in him we know that we are of the truth, and before him will assure our hearts.**

**1 John 3:20**

**ὅτι ἐὰν καταγινώσκη ἡμῶν ἡ καρδία,**

that or because / if / condemns / our or us / heart

καταγινώσκη - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Per. Sing. Subj.

**ὅτι μείζων ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς τῆς καρδίας ἡμῶν,**

that or because / greater (Adj) / is / God / heart / our

**καὶ γινώσκει πάντα.**

And / knows / all things every thing

γινώσκει – 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Pres.

**Translation – Because if our heart condemns us God is greater than our heart, and knows everthing.**

**1 John 3:21**

**Ἀγαπητοί,**

Beloved,

**ἐὰν ἡ καρδία ἡμῶν μὴ καταγινώσκη ἡμῶν,**

if / the heart / our / not / condemns / us

καταγινώσκη - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Per. Sing. Subj.

**παρρησίαν ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν θεόν,**

boldness or confidence / we have / with or to / the God

ἔχομεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Ind.

**Translation – Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence with God.**

**1 John 3:22**

**καὶ ὃ ἐὰν αἰτῶμεν,**

and / what, which, that, who / if / if we ask

αἰτῶμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Sing. Subj.

**λαμβάνομεν παρ' αὐτοῦ,**

We receive / of / him

λαμβάνομεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres

**ὅτι τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ τηροῦμεν,**

that or because / the commandments (Plu) / his / we keep

τηροῦμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres.

**καὶ τὰ ἀρεστὰ ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ ποιοῦμεν.**

And / things that please / sight / his / we practice or do

ποιούμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres.

**Translation – And whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments, and do the things that please him.**

**1 John 3:23**

**καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐντολὴ αὐτοῦ,**

and / this / is / the commandment / his

**ἵνα πιστεύσωμεν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,**

in order that / we should believe / the name / of his son Jesus Christ

πιστεύσωμεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Aorist Subjunctive

**καὶ ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους,**

and love one another

**καθὼς ἔδωκεν ἐντολὴν ἡμῖν.**

Just as / he gave / commands / to us

ἔδωκεν – 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Aorist;

**Translation – And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his son Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us (or gave us commandment).**

**1 John 3:24**

**καὶ ὁ τηρῶν τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ μένει,**

and / who or that / he that keeps / the commandments / his / in / him / abides

τηρῶν – Pres Act. Part. Sing.

**καὶ αὐτὸς ἐν αὐτῷ.**

And / he / in / him

**καὶ ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκομεν ὅτι μένει ἐν ἡμῖν ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματος οὗ ἡμῖν ἔδωκεν.**

And / in, with, by / him / we know / that / he abides / to or in us / by / the spirit / to us / he gave

γινώσκομεν – 1<sup>st</sup> Per. Plu. Pres. Act. Ind.; μένει – 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Pres. Act. Ind.; ἔδωκεν – 3<sup>rd</sup> Per. Sing. Aorist

**Translation – And whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in him, and in him (or hereby – see also verse 19) we know that he abides in us by the Spirit that He gave to us.**