

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 4, 2019:**

**"Transformed by Love Series (Letters of John):
Loving as Children of God (1 John 3:11-24)
(Part 7)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows us how we are to show God's love to others even though it may initially stretch us out of our comfort zone.]

Notes

Introduction:

- How many of you remember the classic movie of the 1970's, "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory"?
- In going over these verses from John made pastor Craig think of this movie.
- His view of salvation in the past reminded him of that Golden Ticket in the movie – if you had that golden ticket you were assured of salvation in the future.

- In the movie, Charlie lived in a dark dismal world as he lived in a slum area of Munich, Germany with his single mom who washed clothes for a living.
- Now when Charlie opened up that chocolate bar and saw that he had that Golden Ticket, his life immediately changed because he would receive a factory tour and a lifetime supply of chocolate.

- As we'll see today, John tells us that salvation is not just that Golden Ticket of entry, but it's participation, it's experiencing, it's walking in that new world of salvation.
- We need to remember that Scripture can be summarized in two words – belief and response because with belief comes response and participation.
- John is going to contrast how we live out our lives following our true salvational beliefs with how others live out their lives who don't.

- Our society needs to hear the Gospel message when you consider what has happened this past week in Texas and Ohio.
- John will talk about those who commit murder and those who have hatred towards others and those who are simply indifferent to others and then contrast it with how life changes with God's love in us.

Recap of 1 John 3:1-10 from last week:

1. Being identified as children of God is the result of his lavished love upon us.
2. Not-yet-believers don't know our identity because they don't know Him.
3. As children of God we don't know what our glory will be like, but we know we will be like Jesus Christ because we will see clearly at his appearing.
4. This hope gives us the same purity as Jesus.
5. Those who practice sin practice lawlessness.
6. Jesus appeared to remove sin.
7. Those who abide in him are without sin.

8. Those who sin don't know God.
9. Don't let yourself be deceived, those who practice righteousness are righteous, as Jesus is righteous.
10. Those who practice sin are of the Devil.
11. Jesus appeared to destroy the works of the Devil.
12. Believers, born of God don't practice sin because the spirit dwells in them and they can't sin. (Not acts of sin, but living a sinful life.)
13. Those who don't practice righteousness are not-yet-believers.
14. Those who don't love their brother are not-yet-believers.

In Preview of today's message (1 John 3:1-10):

*John tells us to love one Another,
Not like Cain who killed his Brother.
Loving one another is the sign of Life,
No longer in death, no longer in Strife.*

*Murderers are those who hate their Brothers,
Lacking eternal life, they can't love Others.
Be sensitive to those in Need,
Exposing truth with our caring Deed.*

*With Jesus in and at our Side,
His love for us is like a bow well Tied.
John says Abide, Abide, Abide!
If so, our love for others cannot Hide.*

Today's message:

- John lays four ways we can interact with our fellow believers contrasting those first three actions of not being led by the love of God with the last action which is truly living out our lives guided by God's love.
1. We can act out of a murderous intent (3:11-12):

1 John 3:11 (NASB), For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12) not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous.

- Cain obviously thought that his brother had one up on him.
- Abel offered an offering out of his heart versus Cain who offered one out of performance and work.
- God warned Cain about his attitude because God loved Cain as much as He loved Abel.

1 John 3:11 (Mirror), Our love for one another was the topic of conversation from the start!

- Father, Son and Spirit in their perichoretic relationship talked about love from the beginning because love is who God is.

11b) God had nothing less in mind than a loving family!

12) Cain's killing of his brother Abel, is in such contrast to this! His motivation was clearly sourced in the ponesos tree-system; his idea of Divine favor was to count on his own works as being superior to his brother's faith righteousness.

- We need to understand that murder has irreversible tough consequences.
- But this does not mean that a murderer is not included in God's love and concern.
- That would be denying the Gospel – Jesus came to wipe away the sins of the entire world.
- John is saying here that murderous thoughts should not be a part of our belief system, because we are to be led by God's love.
- But sometimes, we succumb to these types of thoughts.

2. We can act out of hatred (3:13-15):

1 John 3:13 (NASB), Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. 14) We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

- Here's a key point of hope and change that when we are experiencing that relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, we pass out of death into life.
- That's God's promise to us which is irreversible.
- If we have love for one another which is tangible action, as John will show us, we act positively to help others, who are in need.
- This love comes from God, who loved us first and leads us to extend His love to others.
- If we are in an abiding relationship with God, His love will automatically flow out of us to others.
- It's a natural thing not to love others, but it's a supernatural thing to love others.

15) Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- Once again, if someone commits an act of murder out of a mistake or the heat of the moment, John is not necessarily saying that eternal life will never abide in them.
- John is concerned about the continuous practice of hatred and murderous thoughts in the heart of someone.

1 John 3:13 (Mirror), It is no wonder then, that the performance-based religious systems of this world loathe you and detest what you stand for! A works-based society finds its leverage in both boasting and condemnation!

14) It is clear that we have relocated from a system of dead works into the dynamic of authentic life in the way we love the family. Love is life; not to love is death.

- John is comparing and contrasting the way of death or the way of the devil, or the way of works-based system of the world with the way of love.

15) To hate a brother, is to murder human life; the life of the ages does not echo any resonance in a murderer. It is only in the constant, seamless resonance of life that agape is realized.

- So, once again, an outflow of love is a hallmark and an identifier of those who are believers.
- And the contrast of the not-yet-believer, who is in this performance based system of the world, doesn't show this love.
- This doesn't mean that not-yet-believers are outside of God's love – it's just they don't yet recognize God's love or respond to that love.
- All of humanity is included in the love of the Father, Son and Spirit even though they are not participating in that love.

3. We can act out of indifference (3:16-17):

1 John 3:16 (NASB), We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17) But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

- It's so easy to be indifferent to others.
- But, indifference can be insidious if we let ourselves go down that pathway.
- But a heart of love can always see the need in others.
- When we are involved in a flourishing relationship through prayer, study and meditation, it's going to be real hard to turn our backs on people with needs.
- The thought of helping others sometimes comes with some fear or a feeling of uncomfortableness.
- But that's OK, because when the Holy Spirit is taping us on the shoulder, it will often at first seem unnatural or uncomfortable, but in our hearts we know it's the right thing to do.
- God stretches us outside of our comfort zone when the Holy Spirit is speaking to us and urging us to act out of love.
- We don't want to disregard the promptings of the Holy Spirit or as Paul tells us "not to quench the Spirit" (1 Thess. 5:19) – we don't want to throw water on those flames of love God is giving to us.

1 John 3:16 (Mirror), Love is known in its other-centeredness; just as Jesus laid down his life for us to free his love within us for others. 17) The indwelling love of God compels one to live sensitively aware of people around us, and not to exclude those in need.

- We are compelled to do things the Spirit urges us to do that usually don't feel natural for us to do.
- God's urgings are supernatural that often give us anxiety but in a good way.
- Let's realize that God will help us take that next step no matter what that may be.

- We may feel that what we are being urged to do is not part of our skill base, but that doesn't matter because if God is laying a service on our hearts, He will guide us through it.
- 4. We need to be living out of love (3:18-24):
 - When we do this, we can expect three things:
 - a. Assurance of our identity (verses 19-20)
 - b. Answered prayer (verses 21-22)
 - c. Abiding in the Spirit (verses 23-24)

1 John 3:18 (NASB), Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

- What if your pastor asked you, "We got a need here in _____ will you help out?"
- Would you respond, "Hey, pastor, I love you and I'll be praying that you find someone."
- That's not loving others in deed and truth.

19) We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him 20) in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

- Now, at times our heart can condemn us, because that's part of our fallen nature.
- There are times that our inner voice is going to tell us, "You're not going to go." "No, you can't do that."
- But we don't listen to those thoughts and we reach out and press on.
- So, we don't let feelings obscure love, but rather, we rely on the fact that God is dealing with us and has given us those thoughts for a reason so we can reach out to others.

21) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22) and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

23) This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

- Here it is again, "belief and response." We are to love God and to love others without fear, shame, guilt or doubt. This is simply what God has called us to do.

24) The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- So, we're not doing this alone. God is present in our lives today. His love is flowing through us right now and if we just place our trust in Him, we will succeed.
- Helping others is a supernatural thing where we have to step out of our comfort zone.
- In the movie, Charlie was amazed when he walked into that chocolate factory, because it was so different inside because of what he experienced.
- And that's the same with us. We need to participate in and experience those supernatural promptings of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 3:18 (Mirror), My darling children, let's not deceive ourselves by paying lip service to love while we can truly live the dynamic of love in practical daily doing! 19) In this we know that our beingness is sourced in that which is really true about us; our doing good is not phony or make-belief; this is who we are in God's sight!

20) So, even if our own hearts would accuse us of not really being true to ourselves, God is greater than our hearts and he has the full picture! His knowledge of us is not compromised. 21) Beloved when we know what God knows to be true about us, then instead of condemning us, our hearts will endorse our innocence and free our conversation before God.

22) Now, instead of begging God, we speak with confident liberty as sons. We also treasure the conclusion of his prophetic purpose and fully accommodate ourselves to his desires and pleasure! Knowing the warmth in his eyes inspire poetic freedom in every expression.

23) And this is the ultimate conclusion of his intention and desire that we would be fully persuaded concerning the name of Jesus Christ who has successfully accomplished his mission as the son of God to rescue mankind's authentic sonship! Our love for one another completes his joy!

- Jesus has accomplished what He set out to do and is in the process of reconciling the world to Himself.
- And He does that through His believing family.

24) Everyone who treasures this final conclusion of God's dream, abides unhindered in seamless oneness in him and he in them. His gift of the Spirit is to endorse our awareness of his abiding within us!

In Summary (1 John 3:1-10):

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- Let's live out of God's love and joy, because living out of it changes us and transforms us.

Closing prayer