

“Jesus Loves Me”

1 John 3:16

Big Idea – Jesus died for me because He loves me.

Read 1 John 3:16 “This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

What is love? Greek words for love

Eros love – physical love

Eros is a self-serving passion. This word, not used in the Bible, is a love for the sole purpose of sexual satisfaction. Translated, “I love you because you give me pleasure. If you stop giving me pleasure, I stop loving you.”

Storge love - family love

the kind of love there is between a parent and child or between family members in general.

Phileo love – brotherly love

Phileo is a friendship love. This is a social kind of love, often translated in the Bible by the word “Friend.” This is a 50/50 relationship, “if you don’t give anything in return, or if there is a conflict, our relationship will end.”

Agape love – God’s divine love

- a selfless love rooted in the very being of God.

- a love of sacrifice.

- an act of the will, not just a feeling.

It's a love that loves regardless of the attraction of the object or of ability to be given something in return.

- a love that is impartial, inexhaustible, unconditional and eternal

It is interesting to note this Greek word "Agape" is used some fifty-one times in the book of I John.

1. His Love Declared

“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...” John 3:16

“God showed His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.

And I pray that you and all God’s holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is.

Christ’s love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19.

2. His Love Demonstrated

“...Jesus gave his life for us.”

According to John, if you want to know how to love then we must look at Jesus Christ example in His death on the cross. We know love because we know Christ's sacrifice (choosing death for us to have life) through the death and resurrection.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:18 "I lay it (my life) down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

The Gospel shows us of Christ laying down His life to buy us back to God in an ultimate onetime sacrifice. What we are because of Christ's death directly reflects the fact that we are all about Jesus Christ. We are not a religion, not a set of rules, but more a means to ultimately know the heart of God in Christ's brutal massacre and share Him openly with the world.

He LAID His LIFE down for us! That is how we know what love is. Someone died for us.

3. His Love Duplicated

"So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters."

John challenges us to duplicate the love of Christ; "by laying down

our lives for the brethren." Some saints would find this difficult, seeing they are unable to lay down their disagreements, disappointments and forgive the wrongs and offenses committed against them.

B. Christ laid down his life for brothers. That he might acquire brothers. Notice:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren," Romans 8:29.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit," John 12:24.

3. Christ's death brought forth many brothers. We are children of God, Galatians 3:26-27.

As we look to the love of Christ as our example, we ought to be inspired to love as He loved. We ought to be willing to do whatever it takes to love one another. We ought to be willing to make any sacrifice necessary to express our love for others. We must be willing to love as Christ loved.

Often we wonder why our churches have declined so much in recent years. We wonder why folks don't show up for service when invited.

There are many factors involved with the decline, but we need not look any further than the nearest mirror for part of the reason.

What kind of love do we express in our day?

Do we share the love of Christ with others?

Do they see anything in us they would desire?

We must be willing to love without limits!