

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Legacy of Love

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 3:11-24

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2117

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Would you like to have sweet assurance that you're Heaven-born and Heaven-bound?
- b) Would you like to have great boldness in your faith and be able to pray with such confidence that you know that your prayer will be answered?
- c) Would you like to have sweet communion with the Lord?
 - i) Would you like for the Lord Jesus to be more to you than just someone you read about or hear about, but for Him to be a bright, loving and gracious reality?
- d) There is a key to having assurance, confidence and communion with the Lord day by day.
 - i) That key is love.
- e) The Word of God teaches us about the legacy of love.
- f) We cannot be selfish and love.
 - i) That would be a contradiction.
- g) 1 John 3:11-24
- h) There are four levels of life:
 - i) Murder
 - (1) This is the lowest level of life.
 - (2) 1 John 3:11-12
 - (a) Adam had two sons.
 - (i) One was a martyr and a missionary.
 - (b) Cain slew Abel.
 - (3) The first murder was over religion.
 - (a) Cain hated Abel's religion.
 - (b) Abel was a martyr for the faith.
 - (4) False religion is almost always murderous.
 - (a) It comes from the devil.
 - (5) John 8:44
 - (a) Satan is a murderer.
 - (6) John 10:10
 - (7) Satan is the one who manipulates and entices people to snuff out the lives of others.
 - ii) Hatred
 - (1) This is the next level of life.
 - (2) 1 John 3:13-15
 - (a) The Apostle John stated that someone who has hate in their heart is a murderer.
 - (3) Matthew 5:21-22
 - iii) Indifference
 - (1) 1 John 3:17
 - (2) Though they are not murderers and don't hate others, there are many people who just want to go their own way and do their thing and let others do their thing.

- (a) They are indifferent.
- (3) Indifference is not of God.
- (4) Luke 10:30-37
 - (a) The Lord Jesus gave the parable of the good Samaritan, about those who passed by a man who had been beaten and left for dead.
 - (b) This world is full of the beater-uppers and the passer-uppers, but the Lord Jesus is a picker-upper.
- iv) Love
 - (1) This is the level of the child of God; those who are saved.
 - (2) Love is of great, immeasurable value.
 - (a) Love is the greatest virtue.
 - (i) 1 Corinthians 13:1-2
 - 1. In this passage, our Lord is comparing all of the other virtues with love.
 - 2. What good is it if we can move mountains, but we can't get rid of malice?
 - (ii) Love is greater than mountain-moving faith.
 - (b) Love is the greatest commandment.
 - (i) Matthew 22:37-40
 - 1. We can sum up the Ten Commandments and the books of the Prophets into two things:
 - a. Love God with all of your heart.
 - b. Love your neighbor as yourself.
 - (ii) If love is the greatest commandment, then the greatest sin is not to love.
 - (c) Love is the greatest testimony.
 - (i) John 13:35
 - (d) Love is the greatest motivation.
 - (i) What motivates you?
 - (ii) 2 Corinthians 5:14
 - 1. The love of Jesus keeps us going.
 - (iii) John 21:16
 - (e) Love is the greatest investment we'll ever make.
 - i) In today's Scripture passage, John gives us three benefits and blessings that we receive when we learn to love.
 - i) These three things are the legacy of love:
 - (1) A good conscience
 - (2) A great confidence
 - (3) A gracious communion

2) A GOOD CONSCIENCE (1 JOHN 3:19-20)

- a) 1 John 3:19-20
 - i) A lack of love is what causes your heart to condemn you.
 - ii) You have a condemning heart if you have malice or hatred in your heart.

- b) If we are saved, then we cannot fail to love and have confidence.
 - c) In the Bible, the word “conscience” and the word “heart” are often used interchangeably.
 - i) In 1 John 3:20 when he says, “If our hearts condemn us not,” he is saying “If our conscience does not condemn us.”
 - d) When we have love in our heart, then our conscience is going to be clear.
 - e) Our conscience is not an enemy but a friend.
 - i) It is something unique God put in us that He did not put in animals.
 - (1) Animals cannot blush or laugh.
 - ii) Our conscience is an ability to concentrate our actions and to make moral judgments.
 - f) The Bible teaches that all of us should have a good conscience.
 - i) 1 Timothy 1:19
 - ii) Acts 24:16
 - g) It has been stated that a good conscience is an inner freedom of spirit and assurance that comes from knowing that you have a transparency toward everyone and that no one is able to accuse you of wrongs toward him that you’ve never made right.
 - i) There is absolutely no way that we can have a good conscience without love.
 - ii) When you love, you’ll make it right.
 - iii) And when you make it right, then you have that transparency.
 - h) If you’ve given your heart to Jesus but don’t have assurance and are doubting your salvation, then check and see if there is some bitterness in your heart or some sin in your life.
 - i) It is an acid that will destroy your assurance.
 - ii) 1 John 3:19-20
 - i) We will never have a good conscience until we learn to love.
 - i) When we truly love and have made things right, then we will enjoy that sweet assurance.
- 3) A GREAT CONFIDENCE (1 JOHN 3:19-23)
- a) 1 John 3:19-21
 - i) A good conscience folds into a great confidence.
 - (1) When your heart doesn’t condemn you, then you have confidence toward God.
 - (a) This is boldness in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b) This confident heart that comes from a clean conscience is what helps us to pray and get our prayers answered.
 - i) 1 John 3:22-23
 - ii) We get our prayers answered by having a good conscience.
 - (1) A good conscience gives us a great confidence, and we can then go to God and ask in His name and get our prayers answered.
 - c) Answered prayer is not for rebels.

- i) Answered prayer is not for those whose hearts are filled with hate.
 - ii) Psalm 66:18
 - (1) This is a prayer promise.
 - iii) 1 Peter 3:7
 - (1) When a husband and wife are arguing or have unresolved anger, they are unable to pray together.
 - (2) When spouses have sought forgiveness and have forgiven each other, they then are able to pray together.
 - iv) We cannot pray with a condemning heart.
 - d) If we don't have a good conscience, then we cannot have a great confidence.
 - i) If we don't have a great confidence, then we can't get our prayers answered.
 - e) Love gives a good conscience.
 - i) When love gives a good conscience, then love gets a great confidence.
- 4) A GRACIOUS COMMUNION (1 JOHN 3:23-24)
- a) 1 John 3:23-24
 - i) When we are saved, we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit whispers to us that we belong to God.
 - (1) The Lord is real to us.
 - (a) This ministry of the Holy Spirit is to take the things of Jesus and show them to us.
 - b) When we live by love, then we're going to have a good conscience.
 - i) When we have a good conscience, then we're going to have a great confidence.
 - ii) When we have a great confidence, then we will have a gracious communion.
 - c) The reason that some Christians doubt their salvation is because they don't have the witness of the Spirit.
 - i) Romans 8:16
 - ii) A person can be saved and have the Holy Spirit; but they have no assurance because they've failed to love, and the Holy Spirit is grieved.
 - iii) The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to give us joy, peace, understanding, wisdom, power and grace, and to make Jesus Christ real to us.
 - (1) Not nearly union but communion; this is "koinonia," the word for "fellowship" that we find throughout the book of 1 John.
 - d) Ephesians 4:26
 - i) The only way to be angry and sin not is to be angry at sin.
 - ii) Never go to bed angry.
 - (1) When we have unresolved anger, we have opened the door to the devil.
 - (2) This is especially damaging in the home.
 - (a) When husbands and wives have unresolved anger, they invite the devil to wreck their home and marriage.

- e) Ephesians 4:30
 - i) When we give a place to the devil, we grieve the Holy Spirit because He is resident in our heart and life when we're saved.
 - ii) If we have anger in our heart and love is not there, that doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit forsakes us.
 - (1) He cannot and will not forsake us because we are sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption.
- f) What grieves the Holy Spirit?
 - i) Ephesians 4:31
 - ii) Bitterness
 - (1) Bitterness is an unresolved hurt.
 - (2) It may be real or imaginary, but we perceive that someone has done us wrong.
 - iii) Wrath
 - (1) Bitterness turns into wrath.
 - (2) Ephesians 4:31
 - (a) The word "wrath" has the idea of heat or something burning, a slow burn.
 - iv) Anger
 - (1) What is the difference between wrath and anger?
 - (a) Wrath is a slow burn.
 - (b) Anger is when that slow burn ignites and bursts into flames.
 - (2) When someone says that they lost their temper, what they are really saying is that it wasn't their fault.
 - (a) But it is actually showing what is in their heart.
 - v) Clamor
 - (1) Anger turns into clamor.
 - (2) Clamor is speaking loudly.
 - vi) Evil speaking
 - (1) Clamor turns into evil speaking.
 - (2) You begin to say things that you would never have said otherwise.
 - vii) Malice
 - (1) Malice is when evil speaking turns into a desire to hurt someone.
 - (2) To do malice means to actually harm someone.
 - (a) It may be financial, emotional or physical harm.
 - (b) It may be done in a rage.
 - (3) A person reaches this stage when they're not abiding in the Lord and are not Spirit-filled.
 - (a) They let the sun go down upon their wrath.
 - (i) Ephesians 4:26
 - (b) They give place to the devil and grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) Ephesians 4:30
 - (ii) The Holy Spirit is gentle.
 - 1. He is a dove, not a lion.

- g) We can grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - i) The Holy Spirit is a person.
 - (1) You can't grieve an influence or a thing.
 - (2) You can only grieve a person, and you can only grieve someone who loves you.
 - ii) Grieve is a love word.
 - (1) The neighbor's kids may vex you, but your own kids will grieve you.
 - iii) The Holy Spirit of God loves us.
 - (1) When we don't love, we grieve the Holy Spirit and He withdraws.
 - (a) Then, we don't have that communion with God that we ought.
- h) The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.
 - i) Romans 5:5

5) CONCLUSION

- a) It does us no good to just determine to love because we know we're supposed to love.
 - i) We don't have what it takes.
- b) Love is not the way to God; God is the way to love.
- c) 1 John 4:7-8
 - i) The only way that we can love is to have the love of God in our hearts.
 - (1) That happens when we're born of God.
- d) Are you born of God?
 - i) The new birth is not a feeling.
 - ii) The new birth is a transaction where you go to the Lord in absolute sincerity and confess that you are a sinner.
 - (1) Acknowledge Him as your Lord, who died to save you and who rose again.
 - iii) 1 John 5:1
 - (1) When we believe, we're born of God.
 - iv) Trust Him.
- e) You will never love those around you until you give your heart to Jesus Christ.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16