



Love or Death

1 John 3:11-24

Big Idea for the Series: Ten weeks of biblical truth designed to show the evidence the Apostle John points to revealing true, saving faith. John said, “I write these things to you so you may know you have eternal life.”

The Bottom Line: The children of God will be marked by genuine love.

Introduction:

John has given us many tests throughout the letter of 1 John to know if we are of genuine, saving faith.

Last week, John reminded us that the children of God are marked by holiness. This week, he circles back around to love and the believer’s affection for other people.

Jesus taught that love would be what defines His followers from the rest of the world (John 13:34-35).

Truth:

Read 1 John 3:11-24.

This isn’t John’s first time addressing love in 1 John and it will not be his last time either. It’s *intentionally* repetitive.

John reminds his readers that this is not new material (1 John 3:11).

There are three levels of affection described in this passage:

1. Hatred
2. Indifference
3. Genuine Love

Genuine love is the only means by which we can know we are of the truth and stand confidently before Him. This leads us to great joy.

Application & Conclusion:

Confess any bitterness you've held within. Be sure that your love is not just verbal but moves you to action. Walk in freedom and love among God and others.

Next Steps:

- Memorize 1 John 3:23.
- Pray for a heart of forgiveness and compassion toward those who have wronged you.
- Serve someone and let them know that they are seen and loved this week.