

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship

September 20, 2023 | “The Love God Loves” | 1 John 2:7-11

1) God loves to see you _____ his _____
(2:7-8)

2) God loves to see you _____ your _____
(2:9-10)

3) God loves to see you _____ yourself from _____
(2:11)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

1. Read 1 John 2:7-11. John starts this passage with the word “beloved.” What is indicated by that term? Who exactly are the beloved? Who are they loved by?
2. According to John, do people sometimes try to feign faith in Christ (i.e. they say they are “in the light” [2:9])? Why would a person pretend to be a Christian? What are some ways to test the authenticity of a person’s faith?
3. Is a Christian allowed to hate? Is a Christian allowed to hate his brother/sister? What about his enemy? Why does John spend so much time talking about love for a brother/sister instead of love in general for all of humanity?
4. What are some ways that you show love for fellow Christians? When was the last time you opened up your home to another believer and shared a meal with them? When was the last time you asked a fellow believer, “how are you doing,” and really meant it? When was the last time you gave of your time, energy, or resources to bless another person anonymously as an act of love? Why are demonstrations of love like this important in the Christian community of faith (i.e. the church)?
5. Is your spouse your brother/sister in Christ? Is it necessary to love him/her more than your other brothers/sisters in Christ? What about your siblings, parents, and children? Are they concurrently brothers/sisters in Christ? Does that change the way you think of them or love them?
6. What do “light” and “darkness” represent in 1 John? What does distancing yourself from darkness mean? What are some ways that you as a Christian are distancing yourself from darkness?
7. List a few people in your life whom you find difficult to love. Do you hate them? Why do you struggle so much to love them? Read 1 John 3:16; 4:7; 4:12; Rom 12:10; 13:8; Eph 5:1-2 and commit those individuals to prayer.

Advanced Question: Can genuine love demonstrated in this world apart from Christianity? Are there ways that unregenerate people demonstrate Christ-like love due to their being made in God’s image? Where do we, as Christians, find the power to display real love for one another? Is that power inside or outside of us?