

I John – Love II

Suzy Bates

I John 3:11-24

June 6th, 2021

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Love can be tough to nail down clearly

If we think we understand it, John's words challenge us.

*What were your reactions to the video at the beginning of the sermon?

*How would you answer the question, 'what is love'?

When we love like Jesus our love will be confusing to the world

The world will see who you love and how you love them and it won't make sense.

Read and discuss I John 3:11-15(ESV)

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

*What do these verses say about God? About people?

*How have you seen Jesus's type of love confuse people?

John defines this self-sacrificing love for us

The nature of love and hate is that someone always dies.

Read and discuss I John 3:16-18(ESV)

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

*What do these verses say about taking and giving life through love?

*How have you experienced this in your life?

Loving like Jesus is a call to die

We are CHANGED when someone loves us like that, and when we love others like that.

Read and discuss I John 3:19-24(ESV)

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 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 what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

*What compassion and understanding do you hear in these verses?

*What is a specific way you or the church has taken the life of another instead of giving up your own?

*What relationship is God asking you to use this understanding of love in?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Sacrifice](#) artist unknown

Song for reflection [You Are Love and Love Alone](#) by All Sons & Daughters