

Loving Others as God Loves

by Alan Martin

This sermon emphasizes the importance of loving one another as a demonstration of truly knowing and experiencing God's love. It challenges believers to love even those who are difficult or unlovable, reflecting God's unconditional love for all. The message highlights the need to put on compassion, kindness, and gentleness as clothing from Christ, aiming to create unity and oneness among believers, ultimately fulfilling Jesus' commandment to love one another as He has loved us.

Duration: 43:28

Scripture: 1 John 4:7, 1 John 4:9, 1 John 4:16, Matthew 5:43, Colossians 3:12, John 13:34, Romans 5:6, 2 Timothy 3:1

Topics: "Unconditional Love", "Unity in Christ"

Description

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Transcript

I'm gonna read from 1st John chapter 4 1st John chapter 4 and I'm gonna start with verse 7 1st John chapter 4 verse 7 Beloved let us love one another for love comes from God and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God the one who is not loving does not know God because God is love so we are the brethren and that means we are to love one another and that means if you are loving your brothers you know God because God is love love comes from him and if there is someone here your brothers here that you're not loving you don't know God you can't know God and not love your brothers that's not possible those that are loving others know God personally the word there's Gdowski it means first-hand experience personal experience see that's different than knowing that Jesus died on the cross that's secondhand someone told us that their gospel writers told us that that doesn't necessarily mean you know God the evidence that you genuinely know God is you are loving your brothers and your sisters if you're not loving your brothers and your sisters you don't know God you haven't had a first-hand experience with God you've just heard about it you hear preaching you hear teaching but it's still not a firsthand personal thing to you verse 9 by this the love of God was manifested among us that God has sent his only begotten son into the world so that the world might live through him you see John need to clarify something how did God manifest his love what does the love of God look like that when you see sin

and corruption when you see someone it's really missing it when you see someone ungodly and unrighteous and unlovable God sends his son to save them is that the way you are when you see someone unlovable when you see someone missing it when you see someone who's not very easy to be around that's how God manifests his love he saw it and he sent his son to save people like that so that those people could live through him because we know just like you and I before Jesus Christ came all of us were dead in our trespasses and sin so when we see someone who's obviously dead in sin because their mouth is foul their attitude is bad the way they the way they are is just bad are you hoping they live through you is God's love in a manifest through you like it did through his son are you gonna be there so that that person can live through you that's how God manifested his love verse 10 in this is love not that we love God but that he loved us see when we when we talk about love it's easy for us here to say and I'm talking to you guys because that's we're not not talking to them out there we're talking to each other it's easy for us to say I love God I thought we're talking about the question is not that that we do we love God the question is that God loves us that's that's how he manifested and he sent his son so the question for us is do you love your brothers like God loves us I'm not asking you if you love God because if you don't love your brothers you don't love God the question we need to be asking ourselves is am I loving my brothers is this not that we love God but is it God loves us that it that's what he says and he sent his own son to be a propitiation for a sin beloved if this is the way that God loved us not that we loved him but that he loved us and he sent his son to make an atonement for our sins what about that person we see in sin what about that person who's doing wrong who's obviously in sin who we don't like who we have an aversion to are we going to love them the way God does God loved the world and he sent his son so that the world to live through him or are we just gonna say well no I love God are you gonna say you love God if you're not loving those that God sent his son to say verse 12 no one has ever seen God at any time but if we are loving one another God abides in us and his love is perfected among us now can I add a little bit to that if we are loving one another God abides in us and his love is perfected among us do you think it's saying if we love that small group of people we get along with thing that's what he's saying no no tax collectors do that don't they sinners do that Gentiles do that I'm asking I'm asking you if you love everybody else here if you care that every other person here is saved from their sin regardless of how they are that's how God loved us it doesn't mean anything for you to get along with your small little group of people and you just avoid the rest you may not even know God if that's the way you are you may not even know God personally because God did not send his son into the world when the world was only for those who loved him God sent his son to the rebellious world the defiant world the wicked world to save them from their condition verse 13 by this we know that we abide in him and he in us because he's given us is it of his Holy Spirit we have beheld and bear witness that the father has sent the son to be the Savior of the world now please hear me we have not beheld that God sent his son to be the Savior of our little click and the rest of them could go to hell because that's the way too many of us live oh yeah God loves my group but the rest of them they're on their own that's not the love of God Jesus said it's not the sick it's not the healthy who need a doctor it is the sick who need the doctor so my question is I'm asking you to search your heart and say is there someone here you don't care for is there someone here that you're not hoping they live because of the love of God pouring forth out through you is there someone here you're avoiding you just assume stay away from was that God if that was God's heart Jesus would have never been sent he's the Savior of the world that's all that's pretty universal in it at a big category that's why I can freely say the only ones here who genuinely know God fully love every single other person here the way God loves the world that's how you know you look that's how you genuinely know that you know God and John like a good Jew he's gonna say it all over again you think I'm redundant John's gonna just go over it again okay same same book first John now same chapter verse 15 verse John 4 15 whoever confesses that Jesus is

a son of God God abides in him and he ain't God now you would think okay well that's me maybe I don't love everybody but at least I confess that Jesus is the Son of God wait a minute let's break that down a little bit what is Jesus the Son of God sent to do to save the world is that your confession that the reason God sent Jesus and made him his son is it for God's own of the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him might not perish but have everlasting life is that your confession that God sent Jesus Christ his Son as the Savior of the world not not as your Savior there's a lot of us that want to camp there God sent Jesus to save me no no God sent Jesus to save the world and is that how you know him is that the Jesus you're confessing if you genuinely know God you know that Jesus is there to save sinners that's the demonstration of God's love verse 16 and we have come to know and have believed the love which God has among us God is love and the one who abides in love abides in God and God in him so those here John is saying those who are loving like God loves are living in God that's who lives in God the ones who are loving as God is they're abiding in God and God is abiding in them by this verse 17 love has been perfected among us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment because as he is and and how is he he is pouring out his life for others he is in the world to save others he has been sent to redeem people from their sin that's who he is is that how we are in this world are we there to save others are we there to show them the love of God in hopes that they'll be redeemed and saved from their condition of sin and be forgiven and experience the love of God through us if that's how we're living we have confidence on the day of judgment because in this world we're living our lives exactly like he lived his life not just avoiding the bad people and staying away from the ones we don't care for and only caring about our little tight little circle and want to avoid anyone that makes us uncomfortable saving our life from the pain of it saving our life from the trouble of it wanting to avoid the uncomfortableness from certain people that's not the love of God that's the love of self and even a selfish person can want God to love them even a selfish person can want to go to heaven a selfish person can want their sins forgiven while they don't care about others while they treat others like dirt or avoid them or just show them no real kindness and mercy they still want mercy for themselves they still want kindness for themselves but that kind of person doesn't know God he's not abiding in the love of God verse 18 there is no fear in love but perfect love cast out fear because fear involves punishment and the one who fears is not perfected in love you know what I don't know that it's talking about fear of God it may be but you know I don't think too many of us are afraid of God but you know what some of us are afraid of we're afraid of those other people we're avoiding we're afraid to talk to them we're afraid to sit at the same table with them we're afraid they may actually try to get to know us a person abiding in the love of God doesn't think like that it's just not what they think there's no fear not when not when loves in control and he goes on to say this we love we love because God first loved us okay God loved us and let's get this straight when did God love us when well we're yet sinners that's right we'll read that here in a minute and why did God love us and why did God love us it's not a trick question God loves us because he is love that's what he does so God is not loving us because we love him that's what he's saying you get that God is not loving you and I because we loved him guess what then why are we loving only those who love us that's not God God loved us before we loved him how come that's not our attitude towards others even those that don't like us even those that are rude and crude and insensitive and wrong oh we're not to love them till they love us and until they get their act together we're to avoid them that is not the way God loved us the only reason we love God is because he first loved us so who's to be the initiator on the loving side who's to be the initiators we are we are not to look around for those that can love us and then love them no we are to love in the way God loves we are to love others and in our loving others we can hope that they will come to love us but we are to love because God is love and if verse 20 if someone says I love God while hating his brother he is a liar that's pretty bold isn't it for John to make that statement so we're here these are the beliefs we know we're family

in the Lord if there is someone we do not love we don't value you cannot love God don't tell me you love God cannot love God and hate another brother or sister in Christ and the word hate in the Greek means to devalue them and you know how you can tell you devalue someone you just you just avoid them we are the we are the most polite avoiders we're good at that we just make sure we we know what table they normally sit at and we're not gonna make that mistake we're gonna sit over here or they come in and we see how they're dressed and it's obviously they don't know God and we have our attitudes and I and I was I would tell you if we examine our hearts evidently even in the early church John was having to deal with the same thing believers not loving other believers in the way that God had loved them that's what I believe he's dealing with this and the thing is he's he's he's having to tell them he's writing to the church now you realize the church would receive this letter and the only people that would have been gathered there would have been the Christians of that city right so he's reading it to all Christians can you imagine hearing it for the first time you're out there in the congregation any of you who who claim that you love God but you don't love everyone else here you're a liar that's in that kind of what he just said that's what that's what he said I think that's what we should believe I think I don't know how it's come to be that churches accept the fact that there can be cliques and groups that don't really embrace and respect and love and honor one another the way that the Lord loved the world when he sent his son to be the Savior of the world because someone quoted this verse and I agree with him in Romans chapter 5 verse 6 it says Paul wrote for while we were still weak at the right time Christ died for the ungodly that's a sebum I in the Greek get the acid be in the Greek a sebum is the verb I should be is the noun ungodly is an attitude it's an attitude that doesn't respect God there are some among us I'm not saying they're here this morning but there are some among us that have no real respect for God they will shoot off whatever they think blank you and blank this or do that no respect that I don't fear of God at all that's who Christ died for that's who Christ died for the ungodly those with that kind of attitude that that's the kind of weakness they're they're slaves of a sickness called sin in them Paul goes on to say for one will hardly die for a righteous man though perhaps for a good man someone may dare even to die but God demonstrates his own love towards us that while we were still sinners still sinners Christ died for us now have you ever wondered how Jesus could say this and what he meant when he was hanging on the cross and the only people were around who was a maybe a few of his followers were there we know at one time Mary was there a couple of the married Mary's his mother another Mary and John the disciple were there because Jesus spoke to them but most of the crowd that was around the cross were the people who condemned Jesus they were the Jewish leaders and most of the time they were there they were mocking him weren't they and even pilot knew and Jesus knew that the reason they they handed him over to be crucified was that they hated him they were jealous of him and here Jesus is staying hanging on the cross and he prays something you know father forgive them for they know not what they do did he know that they hated him he knew they hated him he knew they were jealous he knew they were mocking him he knew they didn't love the father because they wouldn't receive what the father had said to John the Baptist they didn't receive him what could he mean when they know not what they do do you think that the people with the attitude towards God don't fear God that are just very difficult because they have something really bad things in their life do you think those people are aware that they are slaves to sin that the law of sin in their member that their spiritual forces corrupting them making them prisoners causing them to do the things they're doing do you think they know that no they don't know that Jesus knew that Jesus knew that the reason the people were mocking him because they were under slavery to sin something that people don't realize you and I should realize that that when we encounter someone who is just sinning doing what sinners do that that person does not fully know what they're doing and we can seek for them to be forgiven to experience the forgiveness of God like we were shown the mercy and grace and the forgiveness of God is that what do

you think Jesus meant in in Matthew chapter 5 when I'm gonna go back there it's a familiar passage to you Matthew chapter 5 verse 43 you have heard that it was said you shall love your neighbors and hate your enemies some of us some of us live like that's our Bible verse we love our neighbors but the rest no no I don't care for them that's kind of how we too many of us live but I say to you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may become sons of your father in heaven you mean loving our enemies and praying for those who make it difficult for us makes us sons of our father in heaven for Jesus said for that for he the father causes his son to rise on the evil and the good and that's happening right now do you know that the Sun is shining on this church and the Sun is shining on on the Calaveras Lake people out there fishing the Sun is shining on this building and the Sun is shining on every drug house in this entire neighborhood and God is giving them the light in the Sun just like you giving it to us and when God sends rain the wicked get the rain people growing pot in the backyard they get the rain too we get it for our nice flower bed in the front the people going pot get they get the rain too that's how God our father is and evidently becoming perfect like he's perfect it's loving others the way he does obviously he's saying he's not only kind to those that are kind to him Luke says that he is kind to the wicked and the ungrateful God is kind to the wicked and the ungrateful then he goes on to say if you love those who love you what reward do you have maybe I could ask this question so if you stay in your little group that you're comfortable with and you avoid the others who you're not what reward do you have what's that didn't know what didn't know how tax collectors you think if there was a group of tax collectors here they'd probably be sitting all the same table wouldn't they and probably no one else will be no one else will be sitting there with them but they're there to support each other they do that Jesus said that and if you greet only your brothers and the word greet there literally means to draw to yourself okay when we walk in these doors either door walk or roll in either way however we get here let me ask you something who you looking to greet are you looking to greet just those of you you're connected your brothers I want to greet them some I don't plan to greet I have no I'm not looking for them you know what Jesus has said if you're only looking to greet those who are waiting to greet you what's that the Gentiles do that that's not like your father in heaven your father in heaven see sinners ungodly people in the world and what does he do he sends his son to gather them to himself that means as a church if we're living in God and God is living in us we're not just going to be looking to draw the people we already know to ourself that means we're looking we may be looking for the stranger that person that's according to Jesus then he finishes it with this statement therefore you be perfect you be perfect as your heavenly father's perfect you be perfect that's that's a challenge isn't well if Jesus said that can I say that to you is it okay Tom you better be perfect towards every person here Marie you better be perfect in heart towards every person here everybody Raymond Jesse Joe Ralph every person here you better be perfect towards have a perfect heart a perfect love a perfect desire for them and you better draw them to yourself like they were your best friend and don't live in the comfort of your little group that's what love that's what the love of God is and that's what the love of God does you know the Paul used a term Paul was actually kind of famous for putting words together that sometimes you can't find in other Greek literature it's only in the in the Bible Paul evidently spoke and wrote Greek because his letters were written in Koine Greek there's a there's a there's two words that Paul put together one is the basis of the word friend and the other is the basis of the word stranger the word friend is phileo brotherly love it has the idea of family you see kind of where we get the English word family so if you want I might put it this way he put the word family and stranger together any any used it in the sentence in his letter to the Philippians he said pursue hospitality and it's the word hospitality they translate this word hospitality from this compound word family and stranger and you know what it means it's it means this pursue making a stranger feel like family that's what we're to pursue that's how we should be known that you are so warm and loving and kind and merciful and gracious to others that they feel like

they're your family that's what we're to pursue as believers that's what we're to be known for this is because this demonstrates that we're abiding in God and God is abiding in us we can't demonstrate that if we surround ourselves only with people who make us comfortable that it just that's not it that that's natural the world already does that it's not us now does that mean that loving and drawing someone to to your drawing someone to yourself does that mean everything goes no we can speak the truth in love and there'll be certain things that are not allowed for family because they're not good for family they're hurtful and harmful to one another and in love we can say no more of that not at all that's not loving that's not health that's not healthy you can't speak to people like that you can't act like that you can't do that that's love but you see that the difference is speaking the truth in love love hopes all things love bears all things you can bear with a person and say you I want you I want to receive you but that right there you've got to deal with that you've got to deal with that because that is damaging you and that is damaging others that's love see it's love does not mean anything goes and what everyone what anyone does it goes no because Romans Paul made it very clear in Romans chapter I think is chapter 13 love must be sincere hate what is evil claim to what is good and the basic idea of the Greek word evil means it's bad for you and the good it is the goodness of God to be against anything that is bad for you so you can you can have concerns and even be against the actions that are harmful but don't be against the person don't be against the person draw the person to yourself and seek to have the person redeemed out of their sin and restored in the God that is desire for us to live in love in that way and this is I'll close with this little section of well this let me take you to this passage before I close if you if you have your Bibles to please turn to the book of Timothy 2nd Timothy actually 2nd Timothy chapter 3 and we're just going to take two verses from this passage and it's interesting this passage immediately follows Paul's counsel to Timothy about how to deal with opposition Paul knew that Timothy would face opposition even from fellow Christians and so he counsels him not to fight not to don't get into it with people the Lord servant needs to be gentle and kind and hoping that God grants repentance to those that oppose him and then he follows that with with this but it's going to get really bad dealing with people is going to get really bad in the last days and chapter 3 of 2nd Timothy verse 1 but know this in the last days difficult time will come for men will be lovers of them self and I'm just going to stop there that's the characteristic they're going to love themselves so when they come to a place when someone loves themselves you know what they're what they're thinking about what am I going to get out of it what are they going to do for me how does it make me feel and I receive they're not walking in the door looking to meet your needs they're not coming here to make sure that someone else feels blessed by their being here now they come here because I want I need something I want something that's characteristic of the last days men just love themselves not other people and it go I'm going to jump on down to verse verse 4 and he says this they're gonna they're going to love pleasure more than they love God now I want to put two thoughts together and I want you and hopefully we can see this remember the only real evidence that we genuinely love God because John said that no one can say I love God if they're hating their brother can they only those who are loving their brother genuinely know and love God so these people are lovers of self they love pleasure more than people they love pleasure more than people and they're here to get their own good time they're here looking for something they like the breakfast tacos or they like the the events that we do or they like the stimulation whatever it is but it's not people it's not people they love they love pleasure more than people having a form of godliness denying the power thereof and you know what this is rare this is rare but Paul actually tells Timothy avoid that type of person you see someone it's just all about pleasure and it's not about people pray for that person but don't spend your time with them avoid them from such turn away that's pretty rare because that person full of self loving pleasure more than others is misrepresenting who God is people people around us are more important than our own personal pleasure since Christ laid down his life for us that's how we're to lay down

our lives for one another that's that's the way we're to be and the last I will close with this now in the book of Titus chapter 3 Titus chapter 3 no I'm not gonna I don't need to go there that's where I need to go thank you Lord for reminding me Colossians chapter 3 go to Colossians chapter 3 some some of us I don't know if you're if you're if you're wrestling with this someone might be thinking I don't know pastor it's just not natural to me it's just not natural to me to draw someone that I just think is weird to myself to be friendly or loving to someone that I just would rather stay away from that's just not me I'll get that so did Paul Paul got that too he gives us some advice so here's some advice from Colossians chapter 3 verse 12 so as the elect of God those that God has chosen under the words holy and beloved put on a heart of compassion all right that's good to look up at me that means you don't have to have a heart of compassion on your own maybe you woke up in the morning how many of you sleep in your clothes that you wore the day before some do my kids used to I mean I know some people do but most of us take our clothes off when we go to bed and what do we do when we get up in the morning there are clothes are not on we're naked we have to put clothes on so what if you don't have the kind of heart I'm talking about what did Paul say to do put it on put it on put on compassion put on kindness you put it on you dress yourself you think about when you most of you thought about the clothes you were gonna wear when you walk in this door from now on we need to think about I am gonna put on compassion so when I walk through that door I am clothed with the compassion of Christ now when I walk through that door I'm gonna put on kindness and I'm gonna look to see who I can be kind to I'm gonna put it on I'm gonna clothe myself with these things and God provides the clothes so wake up in the morning and don't just live in your natural self how many of you leave the house without putting clothes on no you know how to put clothes on then do not live in your natural old self either put on the Lord Jesus Christ clothe yourself with compassion clothe yourself with kindness clothe yourself with gentleness and even if it's not natural to you clothe yourself with Christ put on the Lord Jesus Christ because it's natural to him put on the Lord clothe yourself with him and live this life and and this is what will happen love is the bond of perfection that's how a group of people very different unique that's how a group can become a family genuinely one and Jesus is what Jesus prayed for Jesus prayed that we the disciples that those even came to believe in him through the disciples said that they would be made perfect in one because when the world sees this beautiful unity this oneness in the midst of a diverse people they believe that's when they recognize this is a result of God sending Jesus the real result of God sending Jesus is the ability for a people to be one the unity of the spirit love the bond of perfection and that's why Jesus said a new commandment I give unto you one commandment love one another as I have loved you by this not by Baptist not by Catholic not by Presbyterian not by any other any other thing by your loving others like he loved you that's how people know you're his disciple that's how they know

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