

Love Light

The Gospel writer John continually explores the ideas of light, life, love, and truth. Jesus is the light of the world that has broken into a world of darkness and is transforming his people into light-bearers by giving them life, love, and truth. Light continues to grow through life, love, and truth.



What does the Bible say cannot be bought at any price?

In a practical sense, when we are people of truth and love, we participate with God in being light and dispelling darkness. John writes, “The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling” (1 John 2:8-10).

We live in a world of contrast. In John’s epistles, it seems everything is either: Light or Dark, Truth or Error, Love or Hate, God or the Devil. This doesn’t mean nuance doesn’t exist or that there are no gray areas in life or theology; it simply means that in John’s context, there was a need to contrast between those who were in the light and those who were in the darkness. He was dealing with false teachers, people who were denying essential truth about Jesus, but were trying to pass themselves off as genuine followers of Jesus. Are they still around today? Words were written to differentiate between those who were true followers of Jesus and those who were not.

For John, it is “evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother” (1 John 3:10). For John, the primary line of demarcation was **love for fellow Christians**. If someone believed in the name of Jesus Christ and loved his brother, they were obeying the commandments of Christ and were God’s children. If they did *not* believe and love, then they were in the darkness and were children of the devil. Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you *really*?

Don’t treat people who disagree with you on some matter of Christian faith or practice as someone who is “in the darkness.” Just because someone disagrees with you about how things *ought* to happen in the assembly, for instance, does not mean that person is not abiding “in the teaching of Christ” or “does not have God.” But also, don’t be dismissive of conversations with others who are trying to work out the particulars of Christian faith and practice. These conversations are not the sort that John was having, but they are still important.

Will we change the world through love? All the themes, ideas, and concepts that John explores are important, but there is no theme more important than love. John depicts people who truly love others as being possessors of light and life. When you love like Jesus loves, you will show the world a new way of being human and this new “humanity” will live forever with Jesus.

For John, love means taking care of one another. It means seeing someone in need and meeting their needs. He implores his readers, “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). John believes if someone refuses to meet his brother’s needs when he has the ability to meet them, he hates his brother and should not consider himself part of the community of light. Following Jesus means making Jesus’ death our way of life, “He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” Love is selfless. Love is sacrificial. Love serves. Love is the new way to live. It’s actually the only way to live. Selfishness and hate are the way to die, but selfless love is the way to live now and forever. This is the way we participate with Jesus in bringing light to this world of darkness.



“For God so loved the world that He gave His Son...”

By Wes McAdams, modified for space kss

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday...

Friday Bible Study: from 7—8PM.

God bless your *serious* Bible study this year (2 Timothy 2:15)!

3rd Thursday Night Singing:

here from 7—8PM (1/16). God bless our joyful praise to the Lord.