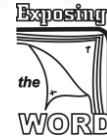


# KNOW "LIGHT, LOVE & LIFE"

A Sermonic Commentary of the Epistle of 1 John

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Scripture King James Version unless otherwise noted.



## 8- Know: To Put Love in Action      1 John 3:16-24

*1 John 3:16-24 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

Last time we looked at how precious it is to be a child of the Father. We now turn our attention to love in His actions and in ours. You may have heard that actions speak louder than words. Words are easy to say if they are not meant, if they carry no commitment but love in action is harder to be false at.

### I- God's Love in Action:

One day, as a minister sat in the office of his church to meet anyone who might have spiritual difficulties, only one person came. "What is your difficulty?" asked the minister. The man answered, "My difficulty is the ninth chapter of Romans, where it says, 'Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.'" "Yes," said the minister, "there is great difficulty in that verse; but which part of the verse is difficult for you?" "The latter part, of course," said the man. "I cannot understand why God should hate Esau." The minister replied, "The verse has often been difficult, but my difficulty has always been

with the first part of the verse. I never could understand how God could love that wily, deceitful, supplanting scoundrel Jacob."

*1 John 3:16-24 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us...*The love of God is a fact but it still is a great mystery. How can man be worthy of such love? The depth of love, demonstrated on the cross.

*John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* But that was not for whom Christ died. Notice *Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Paul prayed in the letter to the Ephesians that they, and we, *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Ephesians 3:18-19*

*Touching Lives by "Exposing the Word" of God*

The pulpit ministry of Dr. Edgar Pierce

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### II- Our Love in Action:

With this great love as a background and motivation let's look now what John says to us. *...and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Laying down our lives? Does this mean we are to literally die a death for someone, probably not? Does it mean we are to exhaust ourselves for other, probably so? How does this flesh out? Notice what else John says.

*1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?* Now this is one that is a bit complicated today in someways because we have a group that is good at spiritual panhandling. They use the kind heartedness of Christians to fleece them. Many times those that have a true need will never voice it nor ask for help. Therefore we must be involved with people's lives so we can know.

*1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.* Love in action if you will. Sometimes it must be tough love.

Your child will walk again," said a wise physician to a polio victim's parents, "if you keep up a regular course of exercise that I will prescribe for him, and if you do not wait on him more than necessary, but insist that he try to help himself." At first the exercises were painful, and the child cried out. But though the parents' hearts were full of pity, their concern for his future would not let them give in. They continued hour after hour, day after day, month after month, kindly but firmly encouraging their little boy

to exercise his partly paralyzed legs, and to follow as nearly as possible the routine of a normal child. Now a young man, this once crippled youngster walks without the trace of a limp. Is this not an illustration of the way that God loves us, and the way we are to love and help others?

### III- The Assurance of the Heart:

There is a feeling that comes with love that is given that words of a mere man's vocabulary will not adequately convey. There is a warmth and glow of God's assurance in our heart when we love as we should.

*1 John 3:19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*

Part of the assurance of loving and knowing you are loved is that we can rest before God and know He answers our prayer the best for us.

*1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

Not always to our expectation, preference nor desire, but always to our best is the love of God as we remember to put love in action.