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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School
Back to the Basics: A Study of I John - Part X

True Love

I John 3:11-18

I. **Wake Up! True Love is from the Beginning (v. 11).**

It has always been expected that the followers of Jesus will practice true love! The absence of love in the child of God is inconsistent with the message of love that has been proclaimed.

II. **Shape Up! True Love Rejects Hatred (vv. 12-15).**

The absence of love is hatred. If we are going to possess love, we must not hate. Why?

A. **Hatred is a rejection of righteousness (v. 12).**

True love rejects hatred because hatred rejects righteousness, and true love is righteous!

B. **Hatred is a characteristic of the world (vv. 13-14).**

Cain was a prototype of the world that still manifests the ugly qualities that he first displayed.

1. Those who possess life love each other.
2. Those who possess death hate each other.

C. **Hatred is a serious offense (v. 15).**

"We wish to perish whom we hate." - Calvin

III. **Sign Up! True Love Requires Radical Sacrifice (vv. 16-18).**

So what is true love? It is from the beginning, it is the opposite of hatred, but what exactly is it? In a word, true love is sacrifice.

A. **Sacrifice is seen in the Person of Jesus (v. 16).**

The more we think upon the sacrifice of Jesus, the more we know what kind of love he expects of us, His followers.

B. **Sacrifice is made in the surrender of comfort (v. 17).**

While laying down one's life is the most supreme example of sacrifice, John now moves to a more practical level. Not many people are asked to die for another person, but the opportunity to help one in need is constant.

C. **Sacrifice is practiced in the realm of action (v. 18).**

True love is shown in consistent action. You can talk all you want to, but until you take action like Jesus did, you haven't shown true love.