

LOVE: THE EXPRESSION OF REAL FAITH (1 John 3:11-18)

January 25, 2026

TEXT: 1 Jn. 3:11-18

MAIN IDEA—Love in action is proof of genuine faith in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE—Gal. 5:6

LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 3:11-12)—John instructs these believers to demonstrate the reality of their faith in Jesus, by loving each other. He refers to the OT example of Cain and Abel to illustrate the opposite of genuine love.

Gen. 4:1-8

Gen. 3:21

Heb. 11:4

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Love (**Agapao**)—To have a strong, non-sexual desire for someone's good as understood by God's moral character; voluntarily giving up one's rights or privileges on another person's behalf.

Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 13:4-7

LOVE REVEALS LIFE (1 John 3:13-15)—John teaches us that hate reveals spiritual death in the hater, while Christian love in action reveals the presence of Christ in the believer.

Col. 1:13

John 15:18-21

V14 teaches us that loving others (particularly our brothers and sisters in Christ) is the evidence of our salvation not the cause of it (**See V14a**).

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Eph.2:8-10

We serve a God who specializes in SAVING SINNERS, calling people OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!

Phil. 1:12-14

LOVE OTHERS LIKE CHRIST LOVES US (1 Jn. 3:16-17)—The ultimate expression of God's love for sinners and our chief motivation to love is Christ's death on the cross.

John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10

James Montgomery Boice (1938-2000)--Here the continuing contrast between Cain the murderer and

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Christ the Savior is seen in its sharpest focus. Life is the most precious possession anyone has. Cain showed his hate by killing righteous Abel. Jesus revealed his love by sacrificing his own life for those foul creatures of sin he chose to make his brethren.

Eph.5:25; Eph. 4:32

Luke 10:25-37

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION—1 Jn. 3:18

>Love in deeds (Look for opportunities to lay your life down in serving others).

>Love in truth (Love in light of the truth of God's word- 1 Cor. 13)