



May 18

Passage: 1 John 3:11-24

Welcome back to the Rock Devo! Love is a big word... hot topic. We all face love in some way. Whether it is in terms of loving family, loving a team, or even food! In this section of 1 John, John is talking about a deeper greater love... a love shown by and fueled by God himself. Today we face the question – does my life show love?

As we jump in – pray. Pray that through this passage the Lord would reveal your heart and open it to the Word.

READ & DIG. Read 1 John 3:11-24 (underline anything that sticks out to you.)

There is a lot to this passage... let's highlight a few things...

DEATH TO LIFE

As humans the first thing we have to realize is that we are dead in sin. Sounds terrible, I know. But it is true. Because of our sin we are separated from the Father. The great news though that John points to in V14 is that Jesus has made a way for us to be saved! Through his work on the **cross**! Maybe you're already a follower of Christ... don't forget this... you were dead, and you have been brought to life through the work of Jesus! What a miracle... death to life!

THE MESSAGE IS LOVE...

Sometimes the Scriptures can be a little difficult to understand.... Not V11... John is very clear – *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.* "No mixed signals here, is there? He is straightforward. In fact, that's exactly what this passage is about... That is the message of Jesus – love. Jesus show his love in many different ways – *grace, peace, forgiveness...* but he also shows his love in his *wrath, anger and judgment.* You see Jesus' love isn't froo-froo love... it is **real**. He tells us, commands of us what we need not always what we want!

THE PROOF IS LOVE...

We also see in this passage that love is evidence of faith and fellowship of Jesus. John uses *Cain (who murdered his brother), Christians being hated, and a lack of giving* all as examples of not showing love. John is saying love is the evidence that proves if someone is or is not in Christ! *What are you proving with your life?*

GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR HEARTS...

What does that even mean? God is greater than our hearts? Look at V20-21... our hearts often confuse us and lead us astray. John is encouraging us, telling us that God is greater than our feelings about ourselves... Regret, self-condemnation, inadequacy... Our hearts try to convict, condemn or blame us... But not anymore... **Jesus provides freedom from ourselves.** Paul says in Romans 8:1 " *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*"

Apply & GO...

Have you gone from death to life? **Trust** in Jesus!

Are you already following Christ? **Remember** you have gone from death to life and live it out!

The follower of Christ should be marked by love! **Live in love! Love others!**

Be encouraged! When your heart tries to condemn you and discourage you... God is greater!