



## Finding Real Love

1 John 3:11-24

July 26, 2015  
Celebration | 8:45 am  
Elevation | 10:45 am  
Pastor David Mitchell

### **We are called to love one another.** | John 3:11-15

*"For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another..." (v.11)*

Does anyone not know that we are to love one another?  
So why do we sometimes fail to love some people?

### **But some do fail to love one another like Cain.** | John 3:12-15

*"...not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous. Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." Genesis 4*

### **Therefore we must understand some reasons we fail to love people.**

- **When we have been wounded by feelings of rejection.** Genesis 4:4-5  
*"And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry"*
- **When we are jealous and resentful from comparing ourselves to others.** Genesis 4:8  
*"By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain Hebrews 11:4*
- **When we are hated and hurt by others it is hard to love those who do not love back.** | John 3:13  
*"Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you."*
- **When we have an unforgiven and broken relationship with God.** | John 3:14-15  
*"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him"*  
  
*"...sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.' Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him." Genesis 4:7-8*

### **How are we called to love one another?**

- **Sacrificially, for the benefit of another.** | John 3:16  
*"We know love by this that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."*
- **Serving others with good deeds and not just good words.** | John 3:17-18  
*"But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth"*  
| Corinthians 13; John 13:2, 5, 34-35

## What are the benefits we gain when we love one another?

- **Peaceful confidence and assurance in our hearts when we feel condemned.** | John 3:19-20  
*"We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things"*
  
- **More powerful prayer life.** | John 3:22-23  
*"...and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."*
  
- **Spiritually enriched and renewed life.** | John 3:24  
*"The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."*

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## LifeGroup Discussion:

### Read I Corinthians 13 and answer the questions below together:

1. In what ways does love need to be our motivation in verse 1-3. How do you practice love that way?
2. What ways can we express love in vs. 4-8? Which of these ways come easiest to you? Which of these ways do you seek to grow in? How do you express them to other people?
3. When is love the greatest part of our lives in vs. 9-13? Love is the greatest in heaven because our faith is fulfilled, our hope is realized but love continues forever. Who do you look forward to loving in heaven?

## Next Steps:

1. **Connect in a LifeGroup** where you can love and be loved. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary's campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)
2. **Serve with us at Everest VBS (Vacation Bible School) this week.** VBS is a great opportunity to express love to our children and neighbors, while helping our next generation in the very beginning of their spiritual journeys. Register to volunteer at [calvarylife.org/vbs](http://calvarylife.org/vbs) or contact Pastor Matt Davis at [mdavis@calvarylife.org](mailto:mdavis@calvarylife.org) or 714.550.2371.
3. **Consider a nonprofit organization where you can volunteer to express love to our community.** To find some local opportunities to reach our community, check out the '15 ongoing ways to Serve Orange County in 2015' at [calvarylife.org/local](http://calvarylife.org/local)