

Relationship – 1 John 3:1-3, 16-23

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure

¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. ²⁰ For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from 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.

Open: How has someone you know demonstrated that he or she loves you? How have you demonstrated that you love someone?

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

1. What is the love of God like (v. 1)?
2. What is the *hope* of v. 3?
3. How do we know what love is (v. 16)?
4. What are different ways to love (vv. 16-18)?
5. What do you think John means when he mentions *our hearts condemn us* (vv. 20-21)?
6. What are the commandments mentioned in v. 23?

Apply

- How can you know for sure that God loves you?
- How have you demonstrated your love for God recently?
- How have you demonstrated your love for someone else recently?

[W]e all know we are made to live together, but we all find that doing so is more difficult than we had imagined.

N T Wright