



Sermon Notes from 18 November

Extraordinary Service (1 John 3:16-18)

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Generosity is love is action. Love is the music that accompanies the dance of generosity. Love provides the beat, the melody and the energy for a beautifully choreographed dance piece.

Remarkable Generosity Requires:

1) Sacrifice (1 Jn 3:16)

The book of 1 John was written by John to address churches in and around Ephesus. Jesus issued a new commandment in Jn 13:34-35 to love one another – How do we do that? John elaborates on this point in the book of 1 John. Everybody thinks that they know love, and everybody wants to be loved, but in reality, very few people understand what biblical love is.

3 Things About Biblical Love

#1 It is costly

True love was demonstrated by Jesus laying down His life for us. His sacrifice paid for the ransom to set us free. That is how much we are loved by Jesus.

#2 It is observable

Love is more than an internal feeling. It is something that you can see externally.

#3 It is distinctive

People can immediately tell that there is something special about this love.

Ordinary service becomes extraordinary when you place the needs of others above your own.

John calls Christians to create a special kind of community that gushes with love from believers and overflows to the non-believers.

2) Heart (1 Jn 3:17)

John is specifically addressing anyone who professes to be Christian.

The phrase ‘world’s goods’ does not refer to everything in the world but to the basic necessities for daily living. John also uses a singular word (brother) to refer to one person whose need that you see. When you see that need and close your heart up to it, you are silencing your conscience. We convince ourselves that we are right, and our conscience is wrong. When you do that, you go against the person in need. You do not have the presence of God in you if you don’t help.

1 Jn 3:14 – Whoever does not love *remains* in death. **Not loving is inconsistent with the nature of God.** However, even if we try our best, we know that we still fail.

1 Jn 3:19-20 – If you doubt your salvation because your heart is troubled, look at the truth and the assurance that is based on the finished work of Christ. Whenever our hearts condemn us, remember that God’s greater verdict is the only one that counts. **Jesus laid down His life for us as a model of generosity to the max. Generosity is giving your heart.** Let our hearts beat and bleed generosity for the glory of God!

3) Action (1 Jn 3:18)

Generosity is love in action. Where does God want you to go and serve?

“God has given us money and homes not just so that we are thankful, but by our generosity, to make many people thankful to God.” – John Piper

Let us love every brother and sister in need, as Christ has loved us. Let us open our hands widely to give and turn the love of Christ into loving action.