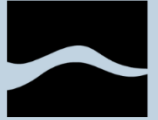


SERMON NOTES

CULTIVATING LOVE

Galatians 5:22-23; 1 John 1-4



BIG IDEA: Nothing is more central to Christlikeness than love. It is proof of the abiding life of God in the life of every true believer in Jesus.

APPLICATION GUIDE

September 3, 2023

DISCUSS

The apostle John is known as the *apostle of love* not only because he refers to himself as the one Jesus loved (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2) but because he uniquely stresses love as a fulfillment of God's commands.

Discuss what Jesus says about love in the following passages (John 13:34-35; 15:12; 15:17).

What does the apostle John say about how we should love one another (1 John 3:11, 17-18, 23; 4:7-8, 11-12)?

What Bible stories illustrate the theme of divine love?

APPLY

What examples can you give from your cultural context or history that illustrate the power of love to prove the truth of the gospel?

Does the way you love others make the invisible God known? How can you ensure people see God more clearly in how you love others?

Think of someone in your life who is difficult to love. What practical ways can you cultivate a heart of love toward this person?

In what practical ways can you express Christlike love to them?

COMMIT

John Stott prayed every morning that he would please the Father, follow the Son, and bear the fruit of the Spirit. Write a similar prayer and commit to making it part of your morning routine.