



Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotion

Day 10

January 20, 2010

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1 John 3:11-16

¹¹This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in Him. ¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Love is the bottom line. When Jesus was asked "what is the greatest commandment", Jesus replied to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus saw loving God and others as linked. The context here is our brothers and sisters in Christ. Part of loving God is loving the things He loves. As your relationship grows with God, you will naturally begin to love others especially those in God's family. One of the greatest ways we can show this world that He lives in us is to love one another. I see this so often in our church. Our family cares for one another. That is a key indicator that God is at work.

The world around us will not always understand who we are and why we do what do, but we do not live for the world. The key to loving is to not go out and try harder to love others. Continue to grow in your relationship with God and love will be a natural fruit that grows in your life. In fact, it says here that one of the greatest ways to know you are a believer is that you have love for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Because of our example who sacrificed for us we know what love is. When we truly live in the freedom that Christ's sacrifice brings to us, then sacrifice for others is the natural result.

O Lord, let us as your church at Indian Rocks truly grow and mature in our love for You and for each other.