

Faith Talk - August 2, 2026

Series: 1 John- Life in the Light and Love of God

Sermon: We Show We Know God When We Love One Another

Scripture: 1 John 4:7;15-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God... Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Summary

John writes to the church like a loving and protective parent, urging his spiritual children to listen carefully and love sacrificially. Last week we were reminded to test the spirits and guard ourselves against false teaching. This week John shows us what we are to do with what we have heard: we are not merely to be hearers of God's Word, but doers of the Word. We show we know God when we love one another.

God has shown us what this kind of love looks like. He sent His only Son, Jesus, into the world so that we might live through Him. Jesus revealed God's love by becoming the sacrifice for our sins, paying the debt we could never pay ourselves. God's love is selfless and sacrificial. It puts the needs of others above our own.

John then turns the command toward us: "If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." No one has seen God, but when God's people love one another, the invisible God becomes visible through His people. We become, in a sense, a living testimony to the gospel. Our love can help others see and experience the character of God.

The good news is that God doesn't simply command us to love and then leave us to figure it out on our own. He gives us His Spirit. As we abide in Him and walk by the Spirit, He transforms our hearts and enables us to resist the tendency toward indifference, selfishness, and love grown cold.

John's message is ultimately a question of relational proximity: Where are you? Are you close to God or far from Him? Are you abiding in Him? Are you experiencing His love? And does your life demonstrate that you know Him by the way you love His people?

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

- John repeatedly connects loving others with knowing God. What do you think he means by “knowing” God? How is relational knowledge of God different from simply knowing facts about Him?
- God demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to sacrifice Himself for us. What makes biblical love different from simply being nice, tolerant, or loving people who love us back?
- Relationships are often inefficient. They require time, patience, sacrifice, and inconvenience. Who is someone God may be inviting you to love more intentionally, even though the relationship is difficult or inconvenient?

Conversations with Students

- John says that people can see something about God through the way Christians love one another. What do you think your friends learn about God by watching the way you treat other people?
- What makes it difficult to love someone who doesn’t love you back, has hurt you, or is difficult to be around? How could God’s love for you change the way you respond?
- John tells us to “abide” in God—to stay close to Him. What are some practical ways you can stay close to God this week when life gets busy or distracting?

Conversations with Kids

- What are some ways your parents, family, friends, or teachers show you that they love you? What does their love help you understand about God?
- God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to save us. What are some ways we can show God’s love to other people?
- Sometimes loving people takes patience and isn’t very easy or convenient. Who is someone you could show God’s love to this week, even if it takes time and patience to love them?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You loved us first. Thank You for showing us the greatest example of love by sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. Thank You that through Jesus we can know You—not merely know facts about You, but experience a real relationship with You.

Help us to abide in You and remain close to You. Give us Your Spirit so that our hearts do not grow cold toward You or toward the people around us. Forgive us for the times we have chosen selfishness, indifference, retaliation, or convenience instead of love.

Show us where we are with You.

- If we have drifted, draw us near.
- If there is sin we need to confess, give us courage to confess it.
- If there is hurt we need to address, give us wisdom.
- If there is someone we have been unwilling to love, give us the grace to take the next step.

We confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and we trust in Him. Help us to abide in You, walk by Your Spirit, and show that we know You by the way we love one another.

In Jesus’ name, amen.