

Real Change: Conversion (Week 6)

What are the fruits of this change? - Part 2

Getting Started:

How would you feel if someone claimed to love you but they clearly hated your family? What is wrong with that picture?

In this session we're going to see that those who truly love God also love God's people. Our love for fellow Christians is one of the fruits of conversion. And it is one of the ways we can tell whether we have been converted.

Main Idea:

Those who are converted will love their fellow Christians, which proves their love for God.

Digging in:

Read 1 John 4:7-21

1. List everything that John commands us to do in this passage. What pattern do you see? What does this show us?
2. What does John say is true of those who love one another (vv. 7, 12, 16)?
3. What does John say about those who do not love others (vv. 8, 20)?
4. How has God shown his love for us (vv. 9-10, 14-16)?
5. What reasons does John give for why we should love one another (vv. 7, 11, 19, 21)?
6. What are the results of our faithfully loving one another (vv. 12-13, 16, 17-18)?
7. Based on the teaching of this passage, can someone truly love God if they don't love their fellow Christians (vv. 20-21)?

Read 1 John 3:11-18

8. Why did Cain kill Abel (v. 12)? What does this teach us about how sin responds to someone else's righteousness?

9. Cain killed his brother because his brother's righteous life exposed his unrighteousness. Rather than rejoicing in his brother's goodness, he attacked it. What does this passage's negative example of Cain teach us about how we should love one another?

10. What does John say that we ought to do for our brothers (that is, fellow Christians)? Why (v. 16)?

11. How does John say we are to love one another (v. 18)? What test of our love does he give (v. 17)?

12. What are some ways that you have:
 - a. Struggled to love others?

 - b. Been loved by fellow Christians?

 - c. Grown in laying down your life for fellow Christians?

13. Church membership should be a venue in which we live out this "deed and truth" kind of love for our brothers and sisters.
 - a. What are some of the difficulties you face in loving your fellow church members in deed and truth? How do you work through them?

 - b. What are some ways that being a member of a church has helped you to love fellow Christians in deed and truth?

 - c. What are some practical ways you can grow in loving your fellow Church members?

 - d. Think about church members who have particular needs, such as widows. What are some practical ways to care for widows? Why is "deed-and-truth love" especially important in caring for widows and other particularly vulnerable church members?