

Understanding True Love

1 John 3:16

This is an excellent alternative if you want to maintain the theme of 3:16 while exploring a different scripture with a similar emphasis.

Introduction:

- Brief overview of the context of 1 John and its author.
- Emphasize the Kentucky Baptist “316 on 316” initiative.
- We all know John 3:16, but let's look deeper into understanding what that love God had for the world means and how we should demonstrate it in personal evangelism.

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters.” 1 John 3:16 NASB

1. What is Love?

- In 1 John 4:7-11, John emphasizes the importance of loving one another, explaining that love originates from God. Because God loves us so profoundly, we are called to love each other in a way that mirrors the sacrificial and selfless nature of Jesus' love.
- Connect to John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

2. What is Christlike Love?

- Jesus is the ultimate model of love and sacrifice.
- Discuss how His love was unconditional and selfless.
- Share stories or examples from the Gospels that demonstrate Jesus' love.
 - For instance, in John 4, the account of the woman at the well, Jesus shows compassion and understanding.
 - In John 13, Jesus washes the disciples' feet, foreshadowing His ultimate demonstration of love—His sacrificial death on the cross for our salvation.

3. What is our Call to Action?

- 1 John 3:16b: "And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."
- Explore what it means to love others sacrificially in everyday life.
- Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
- Practical applications: The best way to serve others is by demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

4. What is the Impact of Living Out This Love?

- How living sacrificially can transform our relationships and communities.
- Testimonies or stories of individuals who have embodied this type of love.
- The ripple effect of love and how it draws others to Christ.

Conclusion:

- Summarize key points.
- Encourage the congregation to reflect on how they can embody Christ's love in their daily lives and recognize that their mission field is wherever God has placed them, whether it's at work, school, ball games, or in the neighborhood.
- Re-emphasize the Kentucky Baptist “316 on 316” initiative.
- Closing prayer and invitation for personal reflection and commitment.

The goal for this outline is to deepen our understanding of sacrificial love and inspire practical application in daily life.

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