

10-16-05

Series: Ten Commands

Ancient Stones - Timeless Truths

Today's Topic- 5th Commandment

Speaker: Pastor Ben

LET'S DIVE INTO TODAY'S WORD.

OKAY.

LET'S PRAY ONCE MORE.

LORD, I ASK THAT YOU WOULD SPEAK TODAY
AND TODAY'S TOPIC IS A CHALLENGING ONE,
ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS.
AND, LORD, I PRAY THAT YOU WOULD SPEAK,
NOT ME.

I PRAY THAT YOU WOULD CHALLENGE US
TODAY, STRETCH US.

AND I PRAY THAT YOU WOULD SPEAK.
MAY WE BE IN AWE OF YOUR WORDS, NOT
MINE.

IN YOUR NAME, AMEN.

SO IF YOU'RE JUST JOINING US TODAY,
QUICK REVIEW OF WHERE WE'VE BEEN.
WE'RE GOING THROUGH A SERIES ON THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS.

AND SOME OF YOU ASK -- AND I WANT TO
CLEAR THIS UP QUICKLY.

THE COMMANDMENTS -- WHEN WE SAY TODAY IS
THE 5TH, DO NOT MURDER, I GREW UP
LEARNING THAT AS THE 6TH COMMANDMENT.
AND HOW DOES THAT WORK?

JUST SO YOU KNOW, DIFFERENT TRADITIONS
LUMP THE COMMANDMENTS TOGETHER
DIFFERENTLY.

GOD DIDN'T HAVE A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
HE JUST HAD THEM LAID OUT THERE.
SO WHERE WE LUMP TOGETHER DON'T SERVE
OTHER GODS AND IDOLS AND THEN SEPARATE
THESE COVET VERSES AT THE END, OTHERS
SEPARATE THE FIRST TWO AND LUMP TOGETHER
AT THE END.
IF THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.
SO TODAY WE ARE TO THE 4TH COMMANDMENT
WHICH IS IN EXODUS 20:13.
READ THIS WITH ME.
YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.
YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.
THIS IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE SHORTEST
MOST DIRECT COMMANDMENTS.
AND HERE IS KIND OF THE FRAMEWORK THAT'S
BROUGHT US TO TODAY.
THESE COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT JUST GOD'S
LIST OF DO'S AND DON'TS.
THEY ARE HIS WAY OF DEFINING HIS
RELATIONSHIP WITH US.
SO EVERYONE IS INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH
THAT.
THERE IS SOMETHING PERSONAL ABOUT HIM.
FIRST COMMANDMENT, HAVE NO OTHER GODS.
ONE OF THE THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT IS
THAT IS DEEPER, DEEPER THAN MOST OF US
TAKE IT.
WHAT HE IS REALLY SAYING IS, DO YOU LOVE
ME MORE THAN THE THINGS YOU LOVE.

AND IF YOU WERE HERE, REMEMBER I TALKED ABOUT MY FAMILY, HOW THEY ARE TREASURED POSSESSIONS TO ME.

BUT GOD SAYS DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE.

COMMAND 2, DO NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD.

WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT THAT WEEK IS, MISUSING GOD'S NAME IS MORE THAN SWEARING.

IN FACT, THE CATCH PHRASE I USE IS THIS COMMANDMENT HAS LESS TO DO WITH WHAT WE SAY AND EVERYTHING TO DO WITH WHO WE ARE.

BECAUSE GOD'S NAME IS WRITTEN ON HIS PEOPLE, WHO WE ARE IS LIVING BY HIS NAME.

THEN WEEK 3 WAS THE SABBATH.

THE COMMANDMENT SAYS STOP AND REST.

AND WE ALL SAID, YES, I WANT THAT COMMAND.

HOW DO I DO IT?

AND GOD CREATED US.

REST.

AND HE CREATED US TO REST IN HIM.

YET FOR CENTURIES, NOBODY HAS REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE SABBATH IS.

AND I KIND OF ENDED BY SAYING I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND EVEN STILL WHAT THE SABBATH IS.

BUT WITH THAT, I LEFT THE CHALLENGE TO
FIGURE THAT OUT, TO WORK ON THAT, TO
BEGIN PRACTICING THAT IN MY LIFE AND
WITH MY FAMILY.

AND JUST A FOLLOW-UP WHERE WE'RE AT,
SATURDAYS OUR PASTOR SCHEDULES ARE NOT
GOOD SABBATH DAYS.

YOU'VE GOT THE SERMON THAT'S LOOMING --
AND I DON'T WRITE IT ALL ON SATURDAY,
BELIEVE ME.

YEAH, RIGHT.

I'M JUST KIDDING.

SO WHAT WE'VE DECIDED TO DO IS SINCE
MONDAY IS DAY OFF FOR ME, MONDAY IS
GOING TO BE OUR SABBATH.

WE ARE SAYING WE ARE SETTING THIS DAY
FOR YOU.

IT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T GO TO THE
APPLE ORCHARD, BUT WE WANT THAT TO BE A
DAY ABOUT HIM AND A DAY OF REST.

THAT'S WHERE WE'RE AT.

AND I WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU TO THINK
ABOUT THAT.

AND IF YOU WANT TO TAKE MONDAYS OFF WITH
US, TELL YOUR BOSS.

LAST WEEK THE VICAR PREACHED ON HONORING
YOUR PARENTS.

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE RECORDER TOOK ANOTHER
SABBATH LAST WEEK AND WE DIDN'T GET TO
HEAR -- I DIDN'T GET TO HEAR THAT

MESSAGE BECAUSE I DIDN'T HEAR THE
RECORDER RECORDING.

THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF DISCUSSION ON
THE BLOG.

I'M PRETTY SURE HE SAID HONOR YOUR
PARENTS.

THAT'S PRETTY CONSISTENT WITH THE VERSE.
AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT
AND DIDN'T GET A CHANCE.

TODAY, DO NOT MURDER.

AND THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE PASSAGE FOR A
NUMBER OF REASONS: 1, WHERE WE'RE AT IN
OUR CULTURE TODAY, IN OUR SOCIETY WITH
WHAT HAPPENED IN HASTINGS.

AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT, BUT ALSO
THE MULTITUDE OF THINGS AND ISSUES THAT
ARE ATTACHED TO THIS ONE LITTLE VERSE.
AND SO I WANT TO QUICKLY JUMP THROUGH
SOME OF THE ISSUES AND DIVE TO THE HEART
OF IT.

OKAY?

AND TO DO THAT -- I SEE OUR USHERS HAVE
BEEN HOLDING THE BIBLES SINCE I BEGAN
TALKING.

SO IF YOU NEED A BIBLE, PUT YOUR HAND IN
THE AIR.

WE'RE GOING TO BE JUMPING TO A FEW
PASSAGES TODAY.

THE PLACE WE'RE GOING FIRST IS MATTHEW
CHAPTER 5, BUT WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A

COUPLE MINUTES TO GET THERE.

THERE ARE A WEALTH OF ISSUES ATTACHED TO THIS AND I HAVE A LIMITED TIME TO DO THIS.

SO I WANT TO GIVE IT THE BEST I CAN. THE FIRST IS ABORTION.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS I PROMISED WITH THIS SERIES WAS NOT TO WATER DOWN THE TRUTH BUT TO SPEAK IT.

SO I WANT YOU TO KNOW JUST AS PLAINLY AS I CAN SAY WHERE OUR CHURCH IS AT AND WHERE I'M AT ON THE ISSUE OF ABORTION IS THAT IT IS MURDER, AND IT IS A SIN.

HEART BEAT FOR A CHILD STARTS AT TWO-AND-A-HALF WEEKS FROM CONCEPTION. BRAIN WAVES AT FIVE WEEKS.

PASTOR DEAN SAID THIS MORNING MOST ABORTIONS HAPPEN AT 7 WEEKS OR LATER.

IN MY MIND, LIFE STARTS -- AND I THINK YOU CAN SAY THIS SCIENTIFICALLY -- THE MOMENT DNA IS FORMED AND CELLS BEGIN TO SPLIT.

NOW OUR CULTURE IS INCREDIBLY CONFUSED ON THIS ISSUE.

INCREDIBLY CONFUSED.

IF SOMEONE WERE TO ABUSE A PREGNANT WOMAN AND THE BABY DIED WHILE IN THE WOMB, THAT PERSON CAN BE ACCUSED OF MURDER.

YET, IF YOU GO TO A CLINIC AND PAY SOMEONE TO DO IT, IT IS NOT.

IT IS CONSIDERED A MEDICAL PROCEDURE.
A TEENAGE GIRL CAN'T GO ON A FIELD TRIP
WITHOUT HER PARENTS SIGNING A WAIVER.
BUT SHE CAN, IN MANY STATES, GO TO AN
ABORTION CLINIC AND HAVE AN ABORTION
WITHOUT HER PARENTS' KNOWLEDGE OR
CONSENT.

THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF CONFUSION.

>> INCLUDING MINNESOTA.

>> INCLUDING MINNESOTA.

NOW, IN A ROOM THIS SIZE STATISTICS SAY
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD THEM AND
THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM WHO KNOW
PEOPLE WELL WHO HAVE BEEN THERE.

AND WANT TO SAY A COUPLE THINGS ABOUT
IT.

OFTENTIMES THE STANCE OF THE CHURCH AND
CHRISTIANS WHO HOLD LIFE AS SACRED IS TO
SAY TO SOMEONE WHO'S HAD AN ABORTION OR
TO BASICALLY TO CONDEMN PEOPLE WHO HAVE
DONE IT.

AND I WANT TO MAKE A VERY DISTINCT
SEPARATION TODAY.

SO HEAR ME.

WE DO NOT CALL SOMETHING A SIN NOT AS A
SIN.

BUT WE DO -- I WANT TO SAY THIS CLEARLY,
SO LET ME LOOK AT HOW I WROTE THIS.

WHAT IS SIN AND WHAT IS NOT, WE DO NOT
SEPARATE.

BUT WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE GRACE OF
GOD.

SO PLEASE HEAR ME.

ABORTION IS A SIN.

IT IS.

BUT WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE GRACE OF
GOD TO FORGIVE.

AND WHEN WE COME AT IT FROM THE
PERSPECTIVE THAT SAYS YOU, YOU, YOU,
SINNER, SINNER, SINNER, VERSUS, YOU,
YOU, YOU MUST BE HURTING, GOD'S GRACE IS
BIGGER.

THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE THERE.

HERE'S THE OTHER THING.

OFTENTIMES WHEN SOMEONE HAS BEEN THROUGH
AN ABORTION OR IF YOU'VE WALKED ALONG
SIDE SOMEONE WHO IS DEALING WITH IT, I
SEE TWO WAYS PEOPLE REACT.

ONE IS TO STAND FIRM AND SAY IT IS NOT A
SIN, IT IS NOT MURDER.

AND FOR MOST PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT, THEY
CAN SAY IT, BUT SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE
THERE IS SOMETHING HURTING AND MISSING.

AND THERE MAY BE SOME THAT ARE CALLOUS
TO THE POINT WHERE THEY DON'T SENSE
THAT, BUT MOST THERE IS A TWINGE.

WHEN MOTHER'S DAY COMES, SOMETHING HURTS
A LITTLE.

YOU CAN ASK MOST PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD AN
ABORTION AND THEY CAN TELL YOU WHAT AGE
THEIR CHILD WOULD BE TODAY.

THERE IS SOMETHING THERE.
AND WHEN YOU DENY THAT IT IS WRONG, OR
WHEN YOU DENY THAT IT IS A SIN, IT
LINGERS IN SOME DEEP WAYS.
AND I'M SAYING SOME THINGS I KNOW SOME
OF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH OR FIND
CONTROVERSIAL, BUT THIS IS WHAT I
BELIEVE AND WHERE SCRIPTURE STANDS.
I THINK A SECOND WAY PEOPLE DEAL WITH
THAT IS TO SAY IT IS A SIN AND I CONFESS
IT, BUT I AM FORGIVEN.
AND I GUARANTEE THERE IS A COMPLETE
DIFFERENCE.
NOW, THERE IS STILL AN ACHING, THERE MAY
BE A HURTING, MAYBE IN SOME WAYS
STRONGER.
BUT THERE IS ALSO A HEALING.
AND SO LET ME JUST SAY, TOO, I'M NOT SO
NAIVE TO BELIEVE THAT EVERYBODY HERE
AGREES WITH ME.
AND I REALLY WOULD CHALLENGE YOU TO
THINK ABOUT WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT WHEN
LIFE BEGAN.
HE SAYS IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT INFANTS
IN THE WOMB GIVE HIM PRAISES.
HE SAYS IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT BEFORE I
FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB, I KNEW YOU.
SO JUST THINK ABOUT IT.
AND IF YOU WANT TO TALK, SHOOT ME AN
E-MAIL, BRIAN SMITH AT WOODBURY --

BUT LET'S NOT SHY AWAY FROM THOSE THINGS.

AND THE REASON IT IS SUCH A BIG NO-NO TO TALK ABOUT IT, IS BECAUSE IT'S INCREDIBLY PERSONAL AND DIVIDED IN OUR NATION.

BUT WE CANNOT BE AFRAID TO SPEAK THE TRUTH.

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, LET ME KNOW. LET ME ALSO SAY THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MINISTRIES IF YOU KNOW SOMEBODY WHO IS STRUGGLING WITH THAT.

IF THEY ARE STRUGGLING WITH WHETHER TO HAVE ONE OR WHAT TO DO, I NEED HEALING, THERE ARE MINISTRIES THAT CAN HELP.

NEW LIVE FAMILY SERVICE, KIM IS CONNECTED WITH BOTH OF THOSE MINISTRIES AS WELL AS ANOTHER ONE THAT IS KIND OF ON HIATUS RIGHT NOW BUT IT'S CALLED "TELL THEM I LOVE THEM."

SHE SAID SHE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE SERVICE, TOO, IF ANYBODY WANTED TO CATCH HER.

SHE'LL BE UP HERE.

SHE'S BLONDE, AND I WON'T MAKE HER STAND UP.

SHE'S OVER HERE, HAND IN THE AIR.

I SPENT ALL MY TIME TALKING ABOUT THAT.

BUT IT'S AN IMPORTANT THING.

NEXT THING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT QUICKLY, EUTHANASIA, SUICIDE, WAR, ALL THOSE

THINGS ARE CONNECTED WITH THIS
COMMANDMENT.

ARE THEY RIGHT?

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THEM?

I WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT THEM.

AND I KNOW THIS ISN'T ENOUGH BUT I WANT
TO GET TO SOMETHING PERSONAL.

SO LET ME MAKE THIS STATEMENT.

AND IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, SHOOT ME
AN E-MAIL.

AND FOR REAL, IT IS

BGRIFFIN@WOODBURYLUTHERAN.ORG.

IT SAYS UNLESS SPECIFICALLY COMMANDED BY
GOD OR A SYSTEM THAT HE HAS ESTABLISHED,
ACTING WITH JUST INTENTIONS, TAKING THE
LIFE OF ANOTHER PERSON UNDER ANY
CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING YOUR OWN, IS
MURDER.

I'LL LET YOU READ THAT A COUPLE TIMES.

I HAD TO WRITE THAT DOWN SO I KNEW IT
MADE SENSE, AND MAYBE IT DOESN'T.

AND THIS IS WHAT THIS LEADS ME TO AND
THIS IS THE OTHER QUESTIONS.

IF GOD TAKES A LIFE, IS HE BREAKING HIS
OWN COMMANDMENT?

AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY I CAN DESCRIBE
THIS.

IF YOU WERE TO BREAK THE LAW, IF YOU
WERE TO STEAL A CAR AND GET CAUGHT, AND
ARE STANDING IN COURT BEFORE A JUDGE,

DOES THE JUDGE HAVE THE RIGHT TO GIVE
YOU A JUST SENTENCE FOR YOUR CRIME?
YES OR NO?

>> YES.

>> YES.

NOW IF YOU WERE TO WALK INTO THAT COURT
AND SAY GIVE THAT MAN LIFE, THAT WAS MY
CAR -- WHY IN THE WORLD YOU WOULD TAKE
IT, I DON'T KNOW.

THEY WOULD HEAR YOUR MUFFLER A MILE
AWAY.

BUT IF I WALKED IN AND SAID THAT, WOULD
I BE THE ONE ABLE TO SAY CONDEMN THAT
PERSON?

NO.

AND WHEN IT COMES TO A LIFE, GOD MADE
IT.

GOD IS THE JUDGE.

AND IS HE JUST IF HE CHOOSES TO TAKE IT?
YOU HAVE TO SAY YES.

HE SITS IN A SEAT THAT WE DO NOT.

HE MAKES DECISIONS THAT WE DON'T ALWAYS
UNDERSTAND.

BUT HE IS IN A PLACE TO MAKE THEM.

GOD IS JUST, WE COULD DO A WHOLE YEAR
SERIES ON THIS COMMANDMENT.

AND IF YOU WANT TO DISCUSS IT MORE,
SHOOT ME AN E-MAIL OR WE'LL THROW STUFF
ON THE BLOG.

OKAY, SUICIDE IS ANOTHER ONE.

I WANT TO COME BACK AND DO A WHOLE

SERIES OR SUNDAY JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT
ISSUE.

SO WE'LL DO THAT SOMETIME.

THIS IS -- BEFORE WE GO, MATTHEW 5.

IF THE SECOND COMMANDMENT HAVE NO OTHER
GODS IS THE ONE THAT MOST OF US THINK
ISN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL -- OR I'M
SORRY.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT, DO NOT MISUSE
THE NAME THE LORD YOUR GOD, MOST OF US
THIS IS NOT THE BIG DEAL.

AND THE THIRD, MOST OF US, THIS IS ABOUT
SOMEBODY ELSE.

AT THE END OF THE DAY IF WE WERE TO PULL
OUT THE LIST, THESE ONES I'VE BROKEN AND
THESE ONES I HAVEN'T, MOST OF US WOULD
GO, HONOR THY PARENTS?

NOPE.

PUT YOU FIRST?

NOPE.

MURDER?

GOT IT.

I DIDN'T MURDER ANYBODY TODAY, RIGHT?

MOST OF US WOULD BE, I'M 100 PERCENT ON
THAT.

SPIDERS THEY DON'T COUNT, RIGHT?

MOST OF US WOULD SAY IT DOESN'T APPLY TO
ME.

IT APPLIES TO SOMEBODY ELSE.

LOOK AT MATTHEW 5:21.

THIS IS JESUS SPEAKING TO THE PHARISEES WHO HAD THIS UNDERSTANDING OF THAT LAW. AND HE SAID YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID TO THE PEOPLE LONG AGO, DO NOT MURDER, BUT ANYONE WHO MURDERS WILL BE SUBJECT TO JUDGMENT.

BUT I TELL YOU, ANYONE WHO IS ANGRY WITH HIS BROTHER WILL BE SUBJECT TO JUDGMENT. AGAIN, WHO SAYS TO HIS BROTHER, RACA -- WHICH MEANS EMPTY HEAD OR CAN ALSO MEAN SPIT ON YOU -- IS ANSWERABLE TO THE SANHEDRIN.

BUT ANYONE WHO SAYS YOU FOOL, WILL BE IN DANGER OF THE FIRE OF HELL.

THAT IS WHAT JESUS IS SAYING.

YOU THINK THIS COMMAND MEANS DON'T MURDER AND AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DO THE ACT YOU HAVEN'T BROKEN IT.

AND I TELL YOU IT'S IF YOU ARE ANGRY AT SOMEONE.

IN FACT, IT GOES ON TO SAY, IF YOU GO TO THE ALTER AND MAKE A SACRIFICE AND THERE IS AN ISSUE BETWEEN YOU AND SOMEBODY ELSE, GO AND RESOLVE IT, BECAUSE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS INTIMATELY AFFECTED BY YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

IF YOU HAVE ANGER IN YOUR HEART TOWARD SOMEBODY, YOU HAVE BROKEN THIS COMMANDMENT.

OUCH, HUH?

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN SCARRED BY
SOMEBODY?

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE PEOPLE THAT YOU
WOULD CALL AN ENEMY?

I THINK THE POLITICALLY CORRECT TERM IS
EX, EX-FRIEND, EX -- AND I DON'T MEAN
THAT IN ENEMY.

BUT OFTENTIMES THE PEOPLE WE ARE THE
FARTHEST FROM OR MOST IN CONFLICT WITH
ARE THE ONES THAT WE LET CLOSEST TO OUR
HEARTS.

AND THAT IS BREAKING THIS COMMANDMENT TO
HAVE ANGER.

AND THIS IS REALLY CHALLENGING.

AND THIS IS KIND OF, MAN, WE'RE JUST --
ARE YOU GUYS OKAY STAYING A LITTLE BIT
EXTRA TODAY?

I FEEL LIKE WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS
AND WE HAVE COMMUNION COMING.

AND IF YOU DON'T, YOU CAN VOTE WITH YOUR
FEET.

THE VIKINGS AREN'T GOING TO WIN ANYWAY.

I WAS JUST REPEATING WHAT I HEARD.

WHERE WERE WE?

SO THIS IS WHAT COMES UP.

THE HASTINGS MURDER.

WE'VE GOT TWO KIDS WHO COMMITTED THESE
MURDERS.

AND WHAT I HEAR ON THE RADIO AND FROM
PEOPLE IS WHY, AREN'T YOU?

HAVE YOU HAD A DISCUSSION LIKE THIS?

WHY?

WHAT LED THEM TO THIS?

WHAT OUTSIDE CAUSE WOULD HAVE DRIVEN
THEM TO THIS?

IT MUST BE THAT THEY ARE THE OUTCAST.

IT MUST BE THAT THEY'RE ABUSED.

IT MUST BE THAT THEY WATCHED OR PLAYED
TOO MANY VIDEO GAMES.

IT MUST BE SOMETHING, RIGHT?

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS?

AND EVERYTHING THAT I HEAR -- AND I'M
NOT SAYING SOME OF THOSE THINGS MIGHT
NOT BE TRUE.

BUT EVERYTHING I HEAR IS THESE KIDS HAD
SOCIAL ISSUES BUT THEY WEREN'T OUTCASTS.
THEY HAD A GOOD FAMILY.

STEP AFTER STEP YOU GO, WHAT IS IT?

WHY?

AND I DON'T KNOW THAT I CAN ANSWER THAT.
BUT I CAN SAY THIS: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
ANGER IS LEFT?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ANGER IS ALLOWED TO
GROW IN THE ABSENCE OF LOVE IS IT DIGS A
ROOT AND IT EXPANDS AND GROWS AND
CONSUMES.

IT CONSUMES.

AND I DON'T KNOW SPECIFICALLY.

I DON'T KNOW THEM WELL ENOUGH TO SPEAK
TO IT, BUT I GUESS FOR AT LEAST THE ONE
WHO IT WAS HIS PARENTS, SOMETHING BUILT

IN HIM AND CONSUMED.
IT DIDN'T START THERE, BUT IT CONSUMED
TO THAT PLACE WHERE HE DID SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.
AND THIS IS WHAT'S SCARY.
WHAT JESUS IS SAYING IS, IF YOU BREAK
THAT COMMANDMENT, THAT SAME THING CAN
CONSUME AND HAPPEN TO YOU.
EVERY ONE OF US IS CAPABLE OF IT.
AND DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW TO STOP IT.
BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE IN AN
ARGUMENT WITH SOMEBODY AND THE PHONE
RINGS?
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, HI, RIGHT?
NOT JUST ME, COME ON.
IF YOU CAN STEP ASIDE IN THE ABSENCE OF
ANGER, THE ONLY THING TO FILL THAT IS
LOVE THAT IS STRONGER.
LOOK AT 1 JOHN 3:11.
GO AHEAD AND FLIP THERE.
THIS IS THE MESSAGE YOU HEARD FROM THE
BEGINNING.
WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
DO NOT BE LIKE CAIN -- REMEMBER CAIN AND
ABEL, CHAPTER 1 AND 2 OF THE BIBLE --
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.

DO NOT BE SURPRISED, MY BROTHER, IF THE
WORLD HATES YOU.

WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH
TO LIFE BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR BROTHERS.
AND ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE REMAINS
DEAD.

SO THE SCRIPTURE IS DRAWING AN IMAGE, A
SEPARATION, BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE.

THEY DO NOT EXIST TOGETHER.

EITHER ONE TAKES OVER OR THE OTHER.

15, ANYONE WHO HATES HIS BROTHER IS A
MURDERER, AND YOU KNOW THAT NO MURDERER
HAS ETERNAL LIFE IN HIM.

VERSE 16, THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE
IS.

JESUS CHRIST DID WHAT?

LAI D DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US, AND WE'VE GOT TO
LAY DOWN OUR LIFE FOR OUR BROTHERS.

DID YOU CATCH WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

WE LIKE TO QUOTE IT OUT OF CONTEXT.

HE'S SAYING THE WORLD HATES YOU, LOVE
YOUR BROTHER.

BUT JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR
YOU.

THAT'S LOVE.

WHY IS THAT SO IMPORTANT?

BECAUSE EVERYTHING SAYS WE'VE BROKEN
EVERY ONE OF HIS COMMANDS.

WE DESERVE HIS WRATH, NOT HIS LOVE.

BUT IT SAYS HE LOVED SO MUCH HE GAVE HIS

LIFE FOR US.

THAT'S HUGE.

THINK ABOUT THE PERSON THAT YOU WOULD
CALL MOST YOUR ENEMY.

THINK ABOUT THAT PERSON.

WOULD YOU LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR THAT
PERSON?

VERSE 17.

IF ANYONE HAS POSSESSIONS AND SEES HIS
BROTHER IN NEED AND HAS NO PITY ON HIM,
HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN HIM?

VERSE 18 -- AND THIS HAS BECOME MY
FAVORITE PASSAGE.

DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH
WORDS OR TONGUE, BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN
TRUTH.

IT IS EASY TO LOVE WITH ACTION THE
PEOPLE YOU LOVE.

YOU BRING FLOWERS TO YOUR SPOUSE.

YOU CUDDLE WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

YOU HOLD HANDS WITH THE ONE YOU HOLD
CLOSE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PERSON WHO IS YOUR
ENEMY, THE PERSON WITH WHOM YOU HAVE
ANGER?

BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT THIS PASSAGE SAYS,
DO NOT LOVE THEM JUST WITH WORDS, BUT IN
ACTION AND IN TRUTH.

TELL ME THAT'S NOT A CHALLENGE JUST TO
ME.

AND FOR THE SAKE OF TIME -- I WANT TO
DIG INTO THIS SO MUCH DEEPER AND I JUST
CAN'T TODAY.

BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE ONLY WAY
WE CAN DO THAT IS BY GRASPING ON TO THE
LOVE THAT DROVE JESUS TO A CROSS WHEN IT
COULD HAVE DRIVEN HIM TO DESTROY US.

IT IS THE SAME LOVE THAT CAN DISSIPATE
HATE THAT CAN MEND RELATIONSHIPS.

ONLY BY HIS GRACE IT IS ENOUGH.

AMEN?

>> AMEN.

>> AMEN.

LET'S PRAY.

LORD, I ASK THAT YOU WOULD SOFTEN OUR
HEARTS.

AND MAYBE, LORD, THERE ARE PEOPLE THIS
IS CHALLENGING FOR, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE
IN OUR LIVES THAT EVEN IF WE DO THIS
ACTION IN LOVE, IN TRUTH, THAT THEY ARE
GOING TO RESPOND EVEN MORE COLDLY AND
HARSHLY.

BUT LORD, MAY IT BE OUR DESIRE TO FOLLOW
YOU EVEN GREATER THAN OUR DESIRE FOR
ANYTHING ELSE.

LORD, I LIFT BEFORE YOU THIS CHURCH AND
THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM TODAY.

I ASK THAT YOU CHALLENGE US TO LIVE AND
FOLLOW YOU IN THIS WAY, IN YOUR NAME,
AMEN.

