

**The Book Of 1 John**  
Chapter 3 Part 2  
**“Laying Down Our Life”**

**[Go to 1 John Commentary Table of Contents](#)**

About 200 years ago there were two Scottish brothers named John and David Livingstone.

**John** had determined that he would make lots of money, and he did just that.

**David**, on the other hand, determined that he would kneel before the Lord and surrender his life to Him.

**David** said: *“I place no value on anything that I have or will possess unless I can use it for the Lord’s glory”*.

The inscription over his burial place in Westminster Abbey reads: *“For thirty years his life was spent on an unwearied effort to reach people for Jesus.”*

In the Encyclopedia Britannica, the wealthy John is listed simply as *“The brother of David Livingstone”*.

**For thirty years David spent all of his days seeking to love people through Jesus.**

On his 59<sup>th</sup> birthday, David Livingstone wrote, *“My Jesus, My King, my Life, My everything, again I dedicate my whole self to Thee”*

**Paul, who spent the first part of his life making sure that every person that had called on the name of Jesus was either put to death or imprisoned, wrote later to those who love Jesus:**

**[Philippians 2:17](#)**

Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of **your faith**, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

There is something that happens to the heart of a person who has fallen in love with Jesus. They have this insatiable desire to pour out their love on others who also love Jesus.

**As we continue with our study in the Book of 1 John chapter 3, this is the message that John has for us this morning:**

**[1 John 3](#)**

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another**,

There are so many things that we are trying to learn and grow in as we study God's Word and seek to become more like Jesus, but the MOST important thing that we want to accomplish is to really love each other.

### **John 13:35**

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

### **1 John 4:20**

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, (**Another Believer**) he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

**Good point. How can I say that I love Jesus, whom I have never seen with my eyes, when I can't love sincerely another believer who I can see standing right in front of me?**

- ☞ **I don't know if you read your bulletin**, but if you have, you might have noticed a little section on the back of the bulletin that says:

**CALVARY CHAPEL** is a non-denominational fellowship of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe that God's (Agape) Love, which is greater than any of our differences, is the true basis of Christian fellowship and we look for the presence of His Love in our lives as the greatest evidence that we are truly following Him

What that means, is what John is saying here in chapter 3 of 1 John.

### **1 John 3**

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another**,

The greatest evidence that we are truly following Jesus and becoming more like Him, is when we see the presence of Jesus kind of Love in our own life.

- ☞ **The kind of Love we are talking about** is not the "**Feeling**" kind of love that is in the world.
- ☞ **Where we say "I Love You"**, and the reason we say that in the world is because someone makes us feel certain emotions.
- ☞ "**Agape**" Love, which is Jesus love for us, is the kind of love that does not seek anything for itself, but instead gives or puts into action, this love.

**I saw Jesus Agape Love last week, when there was a potential problem that the enemy could have really used to divide and hurt the worship team.**

- ☞ **Now, I believe that we should use Illustrations** when we teach God's Word because they help people to understand how to apply the Word of God to their own life.

When Jesus taught, He used the everyday ordinary things that had happened or the things that were nearby, to teach what He was talking about.

I often use Illustrations that come from other peoples experiences, but this morning, I can use a couple of illustrations that happened right here in our own church that I think are more powerful than any other illustration I could think of...

- ☞ **If we are going to speak of each other**, then it should always be to boast about the wonderful things we see that our friends here say and do.
- ☞ **So, I am going to brag** a little bit about some of our own people...

**Anyway, the Saturday before Last Sundays service, Brett and I practiced a couple of songs that we were going to do on Sunday morning.**

- ☞ **Brett wants to learn to play guitar better**, so I saw this as an opportunity to encourage him in his desire to play guitar more.
- ☞ **Needless to say**, Brett was very excited about playing on the following Day at our Sunday Worship service.
- ☞ **Well the next day** on Sunday Morning, During practice there was a little conflict in getting all the guitars to gel together...that happens sometimes...it is normal.
- ☞ **But Rather than allow a conflict to continue**, Brett stood up and said: "Hey that's Ok, I will just go back and play drums for worship."

He surrendered his rights so that the entire team could go on without any conflict.

- ☞ **I personally was very blown away** by that because it was so Jesus like that I deeply effected me.

**Now that is what Agape Love is all about.**

- ☞ **Surrender of our rights**, our expectations, our plans, our dreams, so that we might be a blessing to someone else here in our fellowship.

**Now, I am sure Brett would tell you that he is not always like that.** Most of us know that we sometimes have these wonderful moments when we act like Jesus. But more often than we would like, we are not that loving.

- ☞ **But Hey, that is what we are all reaching for.** And when we see it, we need to encourage it.
- ☞ **That was a perfect example** of the Love we are looking for here at Calvary Chapel, Agape Love, unselfish love, serving love.

Every week here, I see these kinds of Agape love situations happening through the lives of lots of you. It is proof that Jesus lives here amongst us, dwelling in the hearts of all of you who love Him so much.

### **1 John 3**

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another**,

Many times, John will say “*This you have heard from the beginning...*”, John is speaking of the time when Jesus became a man like us, “*from that beginning, when Jesus came as a man...*”

- ☞ **This message that Jesus brought** was that we as the followers of Him, above everything else that we should be doing, the first thing is to just love each other.

### **1 John 3**

12 **not as Cain** who was of the wicked one and **murdered his brother**. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.

Adam had perhaps Hundreds of Sons and Daughters, we know that he lived more than 900 years.

- ☞ **The sons** that the Bible follows are Cain, Abel, and Seth.
- ☞ **That is why it is foolish** to think the Bible untrustworthy based on the premise: “*Where did Cain get his wife, if there were just Cain and Abel?*”

**The following is from an article on Christian Answers .net**

*"Hello, I'm a hardcore Evolution believer. I'm always telling my friends who are religious, that perhaps the Bible is just another story like King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table..."*

*Even though I make some good points, in my opinion, against creationism, they still do not agree with me. That's OK, but there is always one question that always seems to stump them...*

*'If Adam and Eve were the first people on this planet, then how did the population become what it is without incest? Doesn't the Bible state that incest is bad...?' Sincerely, Yoendry.*

**In the play and the movie “Inherit the Wind” and the book and movie Contact, this subject was brought up.**

- ☞ **At the historic “Scopes trial”** in Tennessee in 1925, William Jennings Bryan, the prosecutor who stood for the Christian faith, **failed to answer the question about Cain's wife posed by the outspokenly anti-Christian ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow.**
- ☞ **The world's press was focused on this trial**, and what they heard has affected Christianity to this day -- **Christians are seen as unable to defend the biblical record.** And skeptics then make the logically fallacious jump of concluding that the biblical record is indefensible!

The agnostic Carl Sagan used this same question in his book Contact (which was on The New York Times best-seller list), and the movie Contact, which was based on Sagan's book, also used it.

- ⊕ **In the book, the fictional character Ellie** could not get answers about Cain's wife, and other questions, from a minister's wife, who was the leader of a church discussion group.
- ⊕ **Sagan cleverly used common questions** -- such as "Who was Cain's wife?" -- questions that are often directed at Christians in an attempt to prove the Bible cannot be defended.

**The answer to this question is really very simple to answer.**

- ⊕ **First, understand that the Bible** does not name every person that was born on the earth.
- ⊕ **The Bible is the story of Jesus**, how He came into the world, and why He came into the world.
- ⊕ **So, the Bible is interested** in only following one line of descendants that brought Jesus into the world.

Of course Adam had many other children that the Bible never mentions, because they are not important to the story that the Bible is telling.

### **Genesis 5:5**

So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

**Now, my grandfather on my mothers side, fathered 11 children with my grandmother, in his lifetime.**

- ⊕ **Imagine then**, if a man lived **10 times as long** as my grandfather, it is not improbable that Adam could have fathered Hundreds of Sons and Daughters in his 930 years.
- ⊕ **So, there were many daughters of Adam** that his sons could have legally married and carried on the population of the human race.
- ⊕ **The problem** with Brothers and Sisters marrying and having children is a Genetic problem.
- ⊕ **People who are closely related** genetically today, if they have children together, there is a high likelihood that their children will be born with severe birth defects.
- ⊕ **When Adam and Eve** were first created, the Genetic structure of their cells had not been deteriorated yet as it is today.
- ⊕ **There was not a possibility** of Birth defect by closely related siblings.
- ⊕ **So, In the beginning** God permitted this, so that He might allow the population to grow.
- ⊕ **It was not until later, when Moses gave the law**, that marriage by Brother or Sister or other close relationship was prohibited.

Again, The Bible follows one line of descendents that bring Jesus into the world because the Bible is all about Jesus and why He came.

**Any way, back to our study, Cain was very envious of Abel.**

### **1 John 3**

12 **not as Cain** who was of the wicked one and **murdered his brother**. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

- ⊕ **It was the** typical sibling rivalry story.
- ⊕ **Abel brought to God** offerings for his sins, according to the method God prescribed, the blood of an animal.
- ⊕ **Cain, on the other hand**, did things his own way, he brought to the Lord an offering from his own hands, from the crops that he grew.

**The Lord was very specific that it was only by the shedding of blood could sins be covered.**

- ⊕ **The Lord showed this to Adam**, after he sinned in the garden and tried to cover up his sin with the work of his own hands, by using the fig leaves.

### **Genesis 3:7**

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and **made themselves coverings**

### **Genesis 3:21**

Also for Adam and his wife the **LORD God made tunics of skin**, and clothed them.

Cain had a heart for God that needed acceptance **based on something that he had done** for God.

Abel had a heart for God that recognized that **there was nothing he could do himself that could please God**, except come to Him through the blood of a sacrifice.

- ⊕ **And nothing** has changed today.
- ⊕ **There are still two kinds** of people in the world.
- ⊕ **Those who seek** acceptance from God by **what they do**.
- ⊕ **Those who seek acceptance** from God based **on what Jesus did**.

**The Bibles message is still the same:** *“The only way we will ever be acceptable to God is through what Jesus did for us on the Cross, there is no other way”*.

- ⊕ **Why** did Cain kill his brother?
- ⊕ **Because he** *“Envied his relationship with the Lord”*.

**Cain's problem was the same problem that many people have today.**

- ⊕ **We envy** what we see in other people that we want for ourselves.
- ⊕ **Envy in Jesus church** hurts us probably more than anything else.
- ⊕ **Someone is envious of a gift** or ability that another has.
- ⊕ **A Believer is envious of the material way** that the Lord had blessed another believer: *“I deserve that just as much as they do”*.

**Envy is why Cain killed his brother, and envy will kill our relationship with each other faster than anything else.**

- ⊕ **Not being satisfied** with where the Lord has us right now, is the root cause of the problem of envy.
- ⊕ **Not rejoicing** over the way the Lord has blessed someone else.
- ⊕ **Not believing** that the Lord will also bless us also, in due time.

**Personally, I cannot think of anything that I know how to do, that someone else can do it better.**

- ⊕ **John** is more Intelligent than I am
- ⊕ **Bret** has greater wit and personality than me.
- ⊕ **Jim** is funnier and more carefree than I
- ⊕ **Elsie** loves people more than I do.
- ⊕ **Bobby** cares more for others well being than me.
- ⊕ **Tommy** is more conscientious in his work than I
- ⊕ **Eric** has more love
- ⊕ **Vida** plays guitar better
- ⊕ **Kim** is a better servant
- ⊕ **George** has more life and energy
- ⊕ **Paul** greater sincerity
- ⊕ **Randy** a better counselor
- ⊕ **All of you** have gifts and abilities that I envy and long for myself...
- ⊕ **Oh the list is endless**, of all the things that people can do better than I can...

**But Solomon who was Wiser, Wealthier, and more talented than anyone, said it best:**

### **[Ecclesiastes 2:24](#)**

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

If you can just be satisfied with what you have and where you are at, and enjoy it all, you are a blessed person...

### **[Ecclesiastes 3:22](#)**

So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own work

### **[Ecclesiastes 7:14](#)**

In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other,

### **[Ecclesiastes 12:13-14](#)**

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

### **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

23 Thus says the LORD: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

Bottom line, to avoid the snare of Envy: "Be satisfied with what you have and where you are at RIGHT NOW! And, Glory in or be excited about the fact that you know the Lord of Heaven and your name is written in His Book of life!

### **Luke 10:20**

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

### **John Continues:**

#### **1 John 3**

13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

14 **We know** that we have passed from death to life, **because we love the brethren**. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 **By this we know love**, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**There is one particular thing that many people who have come to know Jesus, struggle with:** "*I wonder if I am Really Saved?*"

- ☞ **Well, here is** one way that you **CAN** know for sure that you really are saved.
- ☞ **Do you** love those people that love Jesus?
- ☞ **Are you just drawn to them**, do you feel affection towards them, do you just love to be around people who love Jesus too?
- ☞ **That is proof** you are saved and belong to Jesus.

*"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren".*

- ☞ **You can get on a plane** and fly to Indonesia tomorrow, and go to the area hardest hit by the Tsunami.
- ☞ **When you arrive**, and you can go and seek out the local Church where people love Jesus there. You will find that you will feel just like you are at home when you are with them.
- ☞ **No matter where you go**, when you find people that also love Jesus and know Him, you will feel perfectly at home and like you are with family.

### **1 John 3**

16 **By this we know love**, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**This is our goal until Jesus comes for us:** “To Lay down our life for each other”.

- ☞ **The Idea behind laying down our lives**, it that we would give up our rights, our goals, our desires, so that we might give ourselves to each other.
- ☞ **Isn't that what** Jesus did for us?

Jesus gave up everything so that we could have everything!

*Remember that even as a Candle gives light to everyone that is near it, it is also consuming itself...*

**One of the problems we have in regards to making our lives “Living Sacrifices”, is that we don't really understand what a sacrifice is:**

- ☞ It is not letting go of something we don't want to give up.
- ☞ It is giving the very best that we have.

*“A sacrifice is an offering that we place before the Lord so that He can Make something of it.*

*Once it is offered to the Lord, it is in His hands to do with as He wants.*

*It is no longer in our hands to improve a little, it is His to do with as He pleases.*

*His will is to work with your offerings, not your perfections or your goals.*

*Just bring the offerings of you life, your heart, your time, your finances and your abilities or inabilities and lay them at His feet.*

*You have given them to Him, now leave them on His altar as an offering...”*

**Eugene Peterson, edited by Rob Robinson**

Laying down your life is:

- ☞ *Giving when you feel like keeping.*
- ☞ *Praying for other people when you need to be prayed for yourself.*
- ☞ *Encouraging other people when your own soul is empty.*
- ☞ *Trying to live a pure and righteous life for Jesus, even when you don't see any results.*
- ☞ *Sitting next to someone and hurting with them, even when you hurt inside too much to even speak.*
- ☞ *Keeping your Word even when it is not convenient.*
- ☞ *Being faithful, even when your flesh wants to run away.*

## John Holt edited by Rob Robinson

### **1 John 3**

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

The kind of Love that Jesus has called us to, is not the verbal kind: **"I love you"**, and that is important also. The kind of love we are to demonstrate now in our lives, is the practical love that Jesus showed us by His example:

- ☞ **Whenever Jesus saw** someone in need, He didn't say, *"Oh I will pray for you..."*
- ☞ **Jesus said**, *"I will do for you, what you cannot do for yourself."*

### **Susan Anderson has been in the hospital since last Thursday.**

- ☞ **Her husband Eric** has been going through some really difficult times because he misses Susan so much.
- ☞ **They have not been apart** one night since they were married 7 years ago.
- ☞ **So Saturday morning**, Jim and Kim Mitchell, took Eric over to Ken and Debra Ewbanks house.
- ☞ **They put Eric** on one of their 4 wheelers and took him for a ride.
- ☞ **Then they loaded Eric** in our van and took him to Flagstaff to see Susan in the Hospital.

### **Now that is Agape Love. Love in action. Love with something behind it.**

### **1 John 3**

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth

When we see the kinds of things that I have described to you this morning, that our own people are doing here in our little church, we know that Jesus Love is moving and working in the hearts and lives of His people.

### **1 John 3**

19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

**And when you see this and when you do these kinds of things, "you know that you are of the truth, you have the assurance that you really are saved, and you really are Jesus people."**

### **1 John 3**

20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

You know, even when we are doing these kinds of good works in our life, and we are really trying to live for Jesus, we all still go through times of doubts when we condemn ourselves for all the things we are not doing or are doing...

**There are some here this morning and instead of being encouraged by what you have heard others here in the church doing, the opposite has happened to you...**

- ☞ **You are condemning yourself** because you have not been doing these things.
- ☞ **Wrong response!**
- ☞ **We share these things with you** so that you will be stirred up in your own heart to begin to do similar kinds of good works.
- ☞ **But the fact** that you may not have done any of these, is not a reason to feel bad.
- ☞ **It is a reason** to get encouraged and motivated to start.

*“If our heart condemns us, The Lord is greater than your heart...”*

- ☞ **That means** that when your own heart begins to condemn you, the Lord knows what is really there in your heart.
- ☞ **That you really would like to** do some of these things...
- ☞ **So He doesn't condemn you** for the fact that up till now you haven't done these things.
- ☞ **The Lord doesn't condemn you** when you start to do good works for people and give them Agape Love, then stop for awhile.
- ☞ He doesn't condemn you, and **He would like it very much if you would stop condemning yourself.**

The person who has given their life to Jesus can have an assurance that they really are His, but suppose we are not doing what we should be doing?

- ☞ **Does that mean** that we have lost our salvation or that we did not have it to begin with?

*“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”*

**We don't lose our salvation if we fail to exercise Agape Love or good works of service to each other.**

- ☞ **If our hearts condemn us**, God is greater than our hearts, He knows that you really want to, but just have not been able to so far.
- ☞ **The Lord is so patient with you**, He is so kind and gentle, you will never find Him wanting to take a heavy handed approach towards you.
- ☞ **He is always** very gentle.

**When we fail Him, He won't fail us.**

Perhaps you are saying to Jesus this morning: *“I have done nothing for You, Lord. I have done nothing at all, and yet I am coming to You in prayer to ask you for something.”*

☞ **You can depend on Him.** Even if you don't have assurance, just keep going to Him.

### **1 John 3**

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

The thing that is really missing today in most of our prayers is “Confidence”, do we realize who we are asking help from?

- ☞ **He is the Lord, the King of the Universe,** the One who made everything, the One who Holds everything together, the One who gave His life for us.
- ☞ **This should give us great confidence,** when we ask Him for His help.

**When Jesus church first began and they got into trouble with the Jewish Elders in Israel, listen to how they began their prayer:**

### **Acts 4:24**

So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and **said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,**

*“You made everything, so nothing is hard for you Lord...”*

### **1 John 3**

“...whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight...”

If you are believing in, Trusting in, Living for Jesus, then you are doing everything that God has required of you, you are pleasing in His sight.

- ☞ **So, you can have great confidence** that when you come to the Lord in prayer, that He will help you and take care of you, because you are doing those things that are pleasing to Him.

### **1 John 3**

23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

**Samuel Moor Shoemaker lived in the late 1800's.** He was also a prolific writer, contributing to many denominational and national magazines and authoring at least **thirty-**

**eight books.** Some of these were: *Religion That Works, Beginning Your Ministry, Children of the Second Birth, How You Can Find Happiness, With the Holy Spirit and with Fire, and By the Power of God.*”

**In his final days, Dr. Shoemaker wrote:**

*“As I sit in the study on a beautiful, cool August afternoon, I look back with many thanks. It has been a great run.*

*I wouldn’t have missed It for anything.*

*Much could have and should have been better, and I have, by no means, done what I should have done with all that has been given to me.*

*But the overall experience of being alive has been a thrilling experience. I believe that death is a doorway to more of it: Clearer, Cleaner, Better, with more of the secret opened than locked.*

*I do not feel much confidence in myself as regards all this, for very few have ever “deserved” eternal life.*

*But with Christ’s atonement and Him gone on before, I have neither doubt nor fear whether I am left here a brief time of a long one.*

*I believe that I shall see Him and know Him, and that eternity will be an endless opportunity to consort with the great souls and the lesser ones who have entered into the freedom of the heavenly city.*

*It is His forgiveness and grace that give confidence and not merits of our own. But again I say,. It’s been a great run. I’m thankful for it and all the people who have helped to make it so, and especially those closest and dearest to me...”*