

Sermon: How We Can Recognize Love

Text: [I John 3:11-24 ESV](#)

Gary L. Wackler

July 31, 2022

Introduction: Fruit of the Spirit is how one can determine a real Christian from one who is a fraud. Many in our world are looking for *real* love, and Christians are able to demonstrate that spiritual quality better than anyone. [John 13:35 ESV](#) 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love is a trait of a real Christian. Before we talk in a positive, biblical way about love, let’s discuss:

I. What Love Is _____

- A. Love is a way of living, the world will not _____.
- B. Love is not _____.
- C. Love is not about getting our own _____.
- D. Love is not just a _____ of enthusiasm.

II. What Love _____

- A. Real love is _____ - it lasts.
- B. Real love is _____ (practical).
- C. Real love comes from _____.

III. What Love _____

- A. Love produces _____.
- B. Love produces _____.

Conclusion: G. K. Chesterton observed that “The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.” Being authentic Christians could improve our communities - even our world. Being a real Christian community, being a community of love will attract attention in even the most jaded culture.

I John 3:11-24 ESV

Love One Another

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.