

Love Like Christ

- 1) Christ's Love for Us
- 2) Our Love for Christ
- 3) Our Love for One Another

- Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**
- ...which is proof that our Fr/hvn & Bro/J love us. We use word love in lot diff ways, don't? I could be sitting at fav rstrnt, say: love pizza/pasta; could tell all reasons why: crust just right, flavor bold, sauce seasnd perfly; love this food! Or could be at clothing store, say: love shirt, so cute; love shoes, just what looking for. But of course love for food/clothing is very diff fr when look at spouse, love/life, say: I love you; or when hold baby in arms, hrt filled w/love for child. That love is so much deeper/higher than our prefncs for what eat/wear. Even so, even love/fam cannot compare to love/Xp – the love that Xp shows us, which in turn moves us to love him and oa. That: Xp-like/divine/perf love, and it's kind/love that Jn writes re in both rdngs for today, which teach us to love not like foodie/fashionista, but to love like Xp. So dear frnds & fellow mem/SJ, fellow Xians & yng confrmds: today I encourage you: love like Xp...
- 1st, by remembrng Xp's love for you. J: **vs. 9a**. Do not take for grntd this simp truth, that right here J looks at you in his Word & says: I love you – spkng to you! Ap/Jn records the wrds. He's same Ap who wrote Gos/Jn, ltrs 1-3, and bk/Rev; and he's Ap after whom ch named. Jn is smtms called Ap/love bec a major theme Jn repeats agn/agn in writings: love. Jn's one who wrote, "**See what great love the Fr has lavshd on us, that we shld be calld chldrn/Gd**" (1 Jn 3:1). Also wrote most famous psg in Bible: "**For Gd so lovd wrld, gave**" (Jn 3:16). And the 2 rdngs for today that he wrote, Jn 15 & 1 Jn 4, also emphsz Xp's love for us. J: **vs. 13**. J spoke these words night before laid dwn life for us. Heavy on his mind were beams/cross, nails & whips, punches & thorns. But in unftmbl love for you/me J willingly/intently laid dwn life & allowed self be tortured to death for us. 2 wks ago heard J: "**I am GS; GS lays down his life for shp**" (Jn 10:11) – shp like us, who love wander away in sin/rebln. And it wld've been so much easier for J say: just let them wander. But his love for you is greater. **Vs. 13**. J considers you his frnds! **Vs. 15ab**. Frndshp: such precious gift/God; and we all know feeling of pain/lonliness when a frndsp is lost. I bet you know what it's like: have dear frnd die; or move away; or betray you. It brks your hrt. But J is your perf frnd. He'll nvr betray you; he has gone to hvn but is still always w/you; and when he died, came back life. Frndshps may change, and frnds may come/go. But J is your perf frnd, and will always love you. Listn how: **1 Jn 4:9-10**. God sent us J, and J willngly/volntrly agreed leave home/hvn to come this dark wrld/sin, sufrng, hatrd, pain, dth. Didn't have to, but did anyway, to face cross & make atoning scrfc for our sins. There is no greater love than self-sacrfcng love/Xp for us...
- which prompts/compels us to love like Xp in our love for Xp. How can we say thank you to J? J tells us how: **vs. 9b-10a**. To remain in Xp's love means: remain in faith, stay conctd to J by faith. Remem last Sun? We: brnchs conctd to J vine. And J does not want us let dbt/dvl/disastr snap us off vine, our source life/stngth. **Vs. 9b**. Stay conctd J forever by clinging J in faith. Today: Conf Sun. 15 yng confrmds are given sacred opprtnty confess faith/Xp and make prom to remain faithful him. In conf rite, asked: "*Is it your sincere prayer & desire to remain faithful to your Lord J & his Word all days/life, and to endure all thngs, even dth, rthr than fall away fr him?*" And by working of HS in their hrts, they've been moved to respond: "*Yes, and I ask God to help me.*" Now, let me ask you: would that be your response? Are you committed to remaining faithful to your Sav J for rest/life and "*endure all thngs, even dth, rthr than fall away fr him?*" That's what J asking of you when says: **vs. 9b-10a, 14**. I pray today that, whthr your conf is in your past, present, or fut, we would all love like Xp, by showing our love for Xp...
- and by showing our love for oa. J is very clear on this: **vs. 12, 17**. And Jn adds: **1 Jn 4:7a, 11**. So why is it that we love oa so poorly? Why are we so often so unloving? Why are husbs/wives mean to eo? Why don't prnts/chldrn or bros/siss get along? Why do frnds have fights? Why are fellow Xians, even fellow ch members, often unkind to oa? Yes, there's hatred in wrld; but you'd think it'd be better among Xians. No way. Satan goes right for jugular/Ch when gets fellow Xians vs oa. He uses sin to create divisions, hatred, disunity, distrust amng us. And none/us innocent. We've all contrbtd to strife among us; and

we've all felt bitter effects/strife among us. But instead of just hopelessly throwing hands up in air & saying, "Well, that's just life in sinful world," – instead J challenges us to imitate his self-sacrificial love and love like Xp by loving one another. **Vs. 12, 17. 1 Jn 4:7a, 11**; or, said so simply: **vs. 19**. J's love for us – which we see on cross, in Scripture, in Word, in empty tomb – that love of J for us is what motivates, inspires, prompts, compels, and empowers our love for others. We want to show love when we see how much Xp loves us and when we hear how much Xp wants us to love one another. It is our Spirit-wrought desire to imitate J & love his people. Or, on flip side, **1 Jn 4:20**. To refuse to love is to reject J. But to imitate J is to thank him and to love him.

- There's all kinds/ways we use word love. I can love: fav food; nice outfit; fav sports team; fam mem. Each of those is a different kind/love. But they all pale in comparison to surpassing love/Xp for us. Today J & Jn teach us to love like Xp, to remember & imitate Xp's self-sacrificial love for us in our love for Xp and in our love for one another. It won't be easy, and we will all fail. But this is a lifelong challenge to which Xp commits us, whether we're being confirmed today or not. And the one who commits us to this challenge is entirely committed to us. So love like Xp with the confidence that:
- Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

John 15:9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

1 John 4:7-11, 18-21

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

