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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The Reality of Responsive Love

1 John 3:11-24

Series: Reality Check – (re)Aligning Our Lives to the Way of Jesus

Central Passages

1 John 3:16–18 (ESV) — **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.

Central Thought: Christ-like love is practical, sacrificial, and the mark of a true child of God.

The Message

- ❖ The heart of God and the call of Christ is unchanging – Love each other! (vs. 11)

John 13:34–35 (ESV) — **34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 15:12 (ESV) — **12** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:17 (The Message) — **17** “But remember the root command: Love one another.

The Warning

- ❖ Attitude precedes action – We are accountable for both! (vs. 2-15)

Matthew 5:21–22 (NLT) — **21** “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ **22** But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

The Example

- ❖ Christ-like love is intentional, responsive, sacrificial and transformative. (vs. 16-18)

John 10:11 (ESV) — **11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:18 (ESV) — **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

James 2:15–17 (The Message) — **15** For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved **16** and say, “Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!” and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? **17** Isn’t it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

The Promise

- ❖ Loving like Jesus gives us confidence before God and empowers our prayers. (vs. 19-24)

John 14:12–14 (ESV) — **12** “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. **13** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.