

Maximum Joy: True Love

May 16-17, 2015

1 John 3:11, 16 (All verses New International Version unless otherwise noted)

For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another... This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

INTRODUCTION: Living an “Inside-out Life”

Jesus' Love vs. Toxic Dump

How does this fight show itself in your life? Where does Jesus' love intersect with your life? What are toxic ideas and actions on your heels?

Love's opposite...Toxic Dump

- 1 John 3:12 *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brothers were righteous.*
- Genesis 4:6 *Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?”*
- Genesis 4:7a *If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.*

How is life crumpling you up and stomping on you?

God's love for you shows you your value

- 1 John 3:16 ***This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.***
- 1 Corinthians 7:23 (TLB) ***You have been bought and paid for by Christ, so you belong to him—be free now from all these earthly prides and fears.***

Being Still In Jesus' Love

- Psalm 46:10 ***Be still and know that I am God.***

When and where can you be still? What fights against you being still? What change will you have to make to be still before God?

Abiding In Jesus and Bearing Fruit

- John 15:4-5 ***Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*** – (English Standard Version)
- 1 John 3:23 ***And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.***

As you abide in Jesus, the branch of your life begins to bear fruit.

What fruits of faith is the branch of your life bearing?

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: Read *1 Peter 5:8*. This is a powerful passage in which we see the crouching Toxic Dump waiting to overtake and fill us, but we also see God's response. He graciously calls us to himself through Jesus. What does this passage say we need to do? How will you do that today?

Tuesday: Read *1 Peter 4:7-11*. Just as God told Cain to *rule* over the toxic sins that tempted him, so too this passage (v. 7) guides us to rule over those things in our lives. What do you do to be "clear minded" and "self-controlled?" We also "love each other deeply" as we serve according to the gifts God has given us. Which of the gifts of God that you have received are the easiest for you to use in service?

Wednesday: Read *Galatians 2:20*. This is a mighty passage in which we see the beautiful renewing of our lives through Jesus. By faith we are carried to the crucifixion of Christ so that our lives are renewed and lived for Christ. How do you see Christ's life being lived in your life?

Thursday: Read *Psalms 4:4-8*. We are called to be in silence, searching our hearts, offering sacrifices, and trusting in God. God calls us to daily silence before him and then through His Word (the Bible) He speaks into our lives. Pray that God gives you the desire to be still before Him every day.

Friday: Read *John 15:1-4*. Jesus is the Vine. God the Father is the gardener. You and I are the branches. How does this passage say that you, the branch, are made clean from the toxic dump of sin (v. 3)? As a living branch, abiding in the Vine, what is produced? Where is the fruit in your life? In what area of your life is there a scarcity of fruit? Pray for God to get busy pruning in your life so that all areas are bearing fruit.

Saturday: Read *John 15:5-9*. What insight does Verse 7 give to you about abiding/remaining in the Vine? According to Verse 8, what has to happen in your life so that God is glorified? What is a sign of being Jesus' disciple? Where in your life is God being glorified? Thank God in prayer for that area of your life.