

October 2, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "God is Love" (3)

—Love is Action—

Text: 1 John 3: 16~18

**3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**

**3:17 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?**

**3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

#### Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

We once did not know love. However, Jesus Christ died on the cross and completely settled ours and forgave us.

We are forgiven our debt of sin through God's love. John says that we know the fact that we are forgiven because we are able to **love our brothers**. How thankful we are! **God is love.**

⇒ We give thanks to God for the fact that we come to love one another.

Therefore, we who believe in God have passed out of death into life.

**3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.**

The Bible clearly records as below,

- ① Whoever loves their brothers has passed out of death into life.
- ② Whoever does not love their brothers abides in death.

We have studied up to this point last time. Let us continue to study verses 16 to 18 and study **the fact that we come to know love.**

As you know, understanding and knowing are quite different.

**3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**

The original sentence begins **“By this we know love.”**

There is no *agape* love in this world or in our hearts.

Let us look a term love again. There are four **loves** in Greek as below,

- ① Storge love: love of family and relatives
- ② Philia love: love of friendship, human love
- ③ Eros love: sexual love
- ④ Agape love: unconditional love

We often speak the word love, but there is no ④ **agape love** in reality. Therefore, no one experiences **agape love** until they meet God. Love that we refer to and have in us are only from ① to ③. Even though someone may seem to be excellent and not lacking anything, if they do not have the ④ **love of agape**, they have little.

**3:16 ... he laid down his life for us...**

We believed in Jesus' love on the cross and we come to know God's love for the first time. It means that the nature of love is completely revealed in the cross of Jesus Christ.

Let us study God's **love** today.

#### Main Points

### **1. Love Lays Down One's Life for Others**

**John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

I think the love of our human society is the one that expects something in return. That is that when someone does something with love, they secretly expect something in return. Or it is the love of leftover. It is left out. You may take it if you want.

We will have to pay for such kinds of love sooner or later, even from parents or relatives. There is no love that lays down one's life for others in this world.

The love that God gives us is not like those small ones. No, not at all. He did not spare His own life. His love is the one of self-sacrifice and is unconditional. It is not easy for us to understand it.

Jesus said,

**15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

We see the painful situations of human beings, such as in wars in various places and conflicts between races that occur over the world today. They are caused by human beings who walked away from God. God did not create them to become miserable. He created human beings in His image.

However, **God is love**. And He sent Jesus Christ to save evil human beings. He let Jesus Christ be crucified and shed His holy blood and prepared the path of salvation for people who believe in Jesus. Whoever believes in Jesus as Christ (the Savior) is saved.

**1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

## **2. Love is Action**

### **1) The Behaviors of Christians**

Love is an action where one lays down their **own life**. It is not a simple feeling or an idea. We should not be satisfied because we do not commit a crime.

Jesus taught a parable in Luke as below,

**10:30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.**

**10:31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.**

**10:32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.**

**10:33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.**

**10:34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.**

**10:35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back."**

**10:36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"**

**10:37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."**

It is not as if a priest and a Levite did anything wrong. A Samaritan did an act of love. In those days, Samaritans had no relationship with Jewish people. Actually, they were looked down on by the Jewish people. However, his love followed the action. On the other hand, the priest and the Levite did not do the good deed that they should have done.

#### **Then what should we do?**

##### **① We should know Jesus Christ more.**

We experienced love of Jesus Christ on the cross and we came to know what love is by the act that Jesus laid down His own life.

##### **② We should follow the example of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus became our example. He washed His disciples' dirty foot like a servant.

**Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

Verse 16 records **... ought to lay down** and it means **to have a debt**. It is that we should pay back the debt of love to our brothers and sisters, which has given by God. Therefore, a love action to our brothers and sisters does not depend on how they are worthy they are to receive it or not. Yes, the reason we show love is because of God's love that we have received. It means that we give God's love to our neighbors in return.

## **2) The Nature of Christians**

**3:17 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?**

**The heart of compassion** feels empathy for others' suffering. He who experienced the love of Christ automatically feels empathy.

**3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**

What is the nature of Christians? It is to have fellowship with God through Christ. The critical problem of human beings is that we betrayed God and lost fellowship with God. Therefore, the point is to restore fellowship with God.

We are allowed to restore fellowship when we keep two commandments that are faith in Christ and practicing love. It is the life as if we follow a railroad track.

When we keep faith in Christ and keep practicing love, we are guided to enter the Kingdom of Heaven as if the railroad leads to a place of destination.

#### Conclusion

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—Love is Action—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. God is really the One of love. Christians who are saved by the love of God start to live by showing love. Let us walk the path of life with faith in Christ and practice love.

Let us conclude the sermon today by reading the following Scripture.

**1 John 3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**

\* God Bless You !