

February 25, 2020

## Truthful Love

1 John 4:20 Whoever 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.

As John continues to write about love, he makes a very poignant statement about our love for one another. We can say we love, but our actions will show if we really do. It reminds me of the words the Lord spoke to Samuel when he was looking to anoint the new king of Israel. God had led him to the house of Jesse. It was there God taught him an extremely important lesson. As Jesse marched each of his seven sons in front of Samuel, God would tell Samuel that this is not the one I have chosen. It was while Eliab stood before him that Samuel said, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But God said to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7 - "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

This is a reminder to us all that God knows everything about us. We can act like we love others, but the truth is always known by the One who knows everything. So, the admonition to us all is this, love must be pure and true and right. We must love in the same way that God loves us. We cannot love with conditions because that is not love at all. We cannot say we love God and yet not love the ones He has put in our path. Why? Because the love of God (know get this!) is for everyone! God so loved the world that He gave. We don't get to pick and choose who we love and who we don't. That's not love. God doesn't choose to love one person and hate another because His character is love. God is love. John says, let's be real people of love. Let's let our love flow from who we really are and whose we really are. Let's be truthful love givers.

Dear Father, I want to love others like that! Don't let my feelings and emotions get in the way of my actions. I want to love others like You do. Help me Lord, please. In Jesus Name, Amen