**Blessed Assurance – 1 John 3:14**

**Focal Truth: Assurance of salvation is experienced in love for others**

**Observations**

1. **Loving one another is the command of Jesus Christ - 3:11**

*For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another*

1. Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another

John 13:34 – *a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another*

1. Jesus commanded His disciples to love with Christlike love

John 13:34 – *even as I have loved you*

1. The love of the Lord Jesus Christ for His disciples was self – sacrificing love

Love = agape – loving others from the heart, loving others with self – sacrifice

1. The power of Christian love is the primary witness to the world

**Pagan observations about Christians**

Their lawgiver has persuaded them that they are all brothers

Christians do love one another before they are acquainted – if they know they are Christians

See how these Christians love one another, and how they are ready to die for each other

Tertullian – this surprised them beyond measure, since they are accustomed to hate one another – that one man should be ready to die for another

1. **Loving one another is evidence of eternal life in Jesus Christ – 3:14**

*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren*

1. Believers have assurance of salvation because of their love for others

4:7 – *let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God*

4:12 – *if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us*

**Loving others is the primary evidence of being born again**

Love is the primary grace of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22 – *the fruit of the Spirit is love*…

Love reveals that we have faith in Christ – Gal. 5:6 – *faith works through love*

Love is the greatest of the primary Christian graces – 1 Cor. 13:13 – *faith, hope, love but the greatest of these is love*

1. Believers love the children of God with an unending love

1 Pet. 4:8 – above all keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins

 **The best way to know grace in yourself is to love grace in others! – Watson**

 **Faith knits us to Christ and love knits us to each other - Watson**

1. Believers are brothers & sisters adopted into the family of God by faith in Christ

3:1 – *behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God*

**We love those for whom Christ died!**

1. **Loving one another is genuine self – sacrifice for others like Jesus Christ – 3:18**

*Little children, let us not love with word, or with tongue, but in deed and truth*

1. Believers open their hearts in love to their brothers and sisters in Christ

Rom.12:10 – *love one another with brotherly affection*

**What is brotherly love?**

Brotherly love is transparency to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is acceptance to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is forgiveness to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is helpfulness to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is protecting care to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly loveis sacrifice to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is fondness to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is watchfulness to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is patient to our brothers & sisters in Christ

Brotherly love is expected to our brothers & sister in Christ

1. Believers practice genuine love in actions not words

3:16 – *we know love by this, that He laid down his life for us, & we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren*

3:17 – whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his

 heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

 1 Thess. 2:8 – having so fond an affection for you, we were well – pleased to impart

 to you not only the gospel of God but also our lives, because you had become very

 dear to us

Acts 2:44 -45 – all those who had believed were together and had all things in

common, and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing

them with all, as anyone might have need

 **What are the limits of your love for other believers?**

 **Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ like Jesus loved you?**

**Things to remember & do**

1. Believers have in them, the love of Christ, which makes them love others
2. Loving God’s people demonstrates I am born again
3. Self – sacrificing love for others kills self – centeredness in me
4. Loving one another is our greatest witness to a lost world – John 13:35 – by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another

**To the praise of the glory of His grace. The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**