**Love One Another** III

1John 4:11-12 – *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

One of the primary ways the church manifests love is by making application of the gospel to sin. Sin is our great enemy. We all know that sin kills, but it is the kind of killer that delights in the pain and suffering of it’s victim. Sin hurts. Sin maims. Sin corrupts and destroys and then it kills. The problem with the world outside of Christ is that it loves the sin and hates the sinner. Christ calls the church to turn this upside down. We can only do this when we are willing to take a Biblical view of sin.

Loving others means we have to be willing to confront and rebuke their sin. This is to be done in a general way, in sermons and classes, and more directly in private conversations. Such work is to be done in a spirit of gentleness and humility. However, it is not enough to point out sin. We must point sinners to Christ and assure them of the forgiveness that is available in His cross. No matter how bowed down with sin, if you will kneel at the cross, Jesus will meet you there.

Here are some ways you can show love for others:

1. Take the risk of talking to someone you know is burdened by sin and humbly ask them if they understand what the cross of Christ is about.
2. Pray that God would give you grace to have more courage and compassion in addressing sin in your own life and the life of others.
3. Meditate on what it really means to hate the sin and love sinner.