



**Lesson 8: Love For Others / Text: 1 John 3:11-3:21**

Message focus: Growing in our care for one another.

To begin, read 1 John 3:11-3:21. In these verses, much is made of our response, or lack thereof, to people in need. Although Christians are called to care for others (emotionally, physically, and spiritually), many have to overcome one or two obstacles before they are ready/able to do so.

**1. Obstacle #1 Past Experiences**

Which of the following best represents your past experiences? Share your story.

- I never seem to get help from the people around me when I need it.
- I get taken advantage of and people don't express appreciation for my help. It is draining.
- I didn't have anyone growing up who showed me how to love/care for others in need.
- I grew up in a very selfish, self-centered home. We never helped anyone in need.
- (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

**A.**

**2. Obstacle #2 Debatable beliefs**

Do any of the following represent your past/present views? Explain yourself.

- I believe God helps those who help themselves.
- People get where they are because of poor choices. It's their problem, not mine.
- If I help them they will never see the need to change.
- Most people asking for help are just lazy or are lying about their condition.
- (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

**A.**

**3. By nature, are you more of a "giver" or a "taker"?**

**A.**

**4. Upon what basis does God call us to care for others according to 1 John 3:16?**

**A.**

Why is this such a powerful motivator for us?

**A.**

5. The Christian church continues to be one of the most compassionate forces on the earth. This truth is evident by considering the great number of orphanages, hospitals, relief agencies, and outreach ministries there are in the world today that have been founded by and are funded by followers of Jesus Christ. Why are Christians so compassionate according to Romans 5:5?

**A.**

In what way(s) have you become a more compassionate person since you started following Jesus?

**A.**

6. John poses a question in 1 John 3:17. What is it? Do you believe it is a rhetorical question?

**A.**

7. Let's close this lesson by thinking about the four keys to making a practical difference in the lives of others that John shares in 1 John 3:17-18. They are means (*ability to help*), awareness (*seeing where you can help*), willingness (desire to help), and taking action (*actually helping, not just talking about it*). Which one of these keys is keeping you from helping more people?

**A.**

What can you do to change that?

**A.**

8. Challenge: As a way to encourage implementation of this lesson, I (*Pastor Woody*) am encouraging each Breakout Group to discuss people they know of who are in need. Next, pick of one those needs and collectively agree to meet it.