

I. We are commanded to live a life of love

A. We are to imitate our Heavenly Father

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.” (I Peter 1:14-15)

B. We are to live as loved children of God

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (I John 3:1)

C. We are to love as God loves

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” (I John 4:7)

1. We love unselfishly

2. We love sacrificially

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” (I John 3:16)

3. We love by forgiving

II. We live a life of love by avoiding sin

A. We must say no to all sexual immorality

B. We must say no to all kinds of impurity

C. We must say no to all forms of greed

D. We must say no to all kinds of impure speech

E. We must say no to all forms of deception

III. We are warned about living a life of sin

A. A sinful life is a form of idolatry

B. A sinful life excludes us from God’s kingdom

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” (Revelation 22:14-15)

C. A sinful life puts us in line for punishment

IV. We are given hope by the love of Jesus

A. Christ offered himself for us because of his love

B. Christ offered himself as a fragrant offering to God

C. Christ offered himself as the sacrifice for our sins

“Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties, again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when his priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 10:11-12)