

TOWER OF TENACITY (JOHN)

#11 of 12 in the series: The Lord of the Ring: Twelve Towers

THE LIFE OF JOHN:

JOHN: TOWER OF TENACITY:

1. John's _____ – "Boanerges" (Mark 3:17).
2. John's _____ (Luke 9:49-50; Mark 9:38-40).
3. John's malicious _____ (Luke 9:51-56).
4. John's _____ (Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45).

JOHN: THE APOSTLE OF LOVE:

"My little children, love one another." Asked why he always said this he replied, "It is the Lord's command, and if this alone be done, it is _____." - John (as recorded by Jerome)

1. Jesus loves _____ (1 John 3:1).

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.- 1 John 3:1

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. - Karl Barth

I took up that word _____, and I do not know how many weeks I spent in studying the passages in which it occurs, till at last I could not help _____ people. I had been feeding on _____ so long that I was anxious to do everybody good I came in contact with. - D. L. Moody

2. Jesus loves you, love _____ back (Luke 10:38-42)
3. Jesus loves you, love your _____ (John 19:25-27):

_____ has a short memory. It needs continual reminders.

4. Jesus love you, love the _____ (John 21:15-17; Matt. 28:18-20).
5. Jesus loves you, love those _____ in the church (John 3:16-17; 10:15-17).

APPLICATION:

Love is the Open Door

Caesar, Charlemagne, and I created mighty empires. Upon what did our genius depend? Force. Jesus founded His Empire on love and spiritual truth. Our empires faded away. But millions hold Him in devotion.”
- Napoleon Bonaparte

*If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
He sends flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
Whenever you want to talk, He listens.
He can live anywhere in this beautiful universe, and he chooses your heart.
And the Christmas gift he sent you in a manger in Bethlehem???
Face it, friend. He's _____ about you!*

Sermon Discussion Questions:

John Wesley used to preach in the fields while miners were on their way to work. It is said of him that he literally saved England. His method: emphasizing that the laymen/women are the ministers. The bible calls it the 'priesthood of all believers.' (Exod. 19; 1 Peter 2)

Are you seeing yourself as one called by God to be a divine representation of Christ?

To be like Christ! What did Christ do? He disciplined 12 men. He was so much more than just an example. He acted upon what the Father sent Him to do. He loved His Father and showed that by His obedience.

Who are you discipling like that? Who can you begin to do that with.

(Note: It's not a matter of knowing so much more than someone else. Get the Bible down, and read it together, and listen to what the Holy Spirit is asking of you in regard to:

Your relationship with Christ

Your relationship to your family

Your relationship to others in the church

Your relationship to those not a part of Christ's body (yet—love them into the Kingdom).

In what ways are you like John, as the 'son of thunder' before he became the apostle of love?

Are you aware of Jesus' love for you?

Does a scripture about God's love come to mind? Share it.

Would you take the Moody challenge and study passages of scripture about love until you can't help but to love others?

Jesus loves you, do you love Him back?

Jesus stands at the door and knocks? Will you let Him in? What's the evidence of Him in you?

Jesus loves you, love your family.

How do you love your kids biblically?

Following are some examples:

- Training and nurturing them up in the fear and knowledge of God?
- Disciplining (training, guiding)
- Honoring your parents
- Taking care of widows in your family

Jesus loves you, love the church.

How can you spur others on to love and good deeds?

How can you spur others on so that they are spurring others on to love and good deeds?

What Sunday school class or small group are you involved in? Why or why not? How can you be the church to those in your group?

Jesus loves you, love those not in the church.

When you seek something love you show how much you value that which is lost. To not seek is to say, 'this wasn't of any value to me.' Jesus came to seek and save the lost. What does that tell you about Jesus loves for sinners?

Would is your life shouting to lost people? That they are or are not of value?

1 John 1:3 (read).

To reach out to the lost is to want them to experience the fellowship of Christ that you are experiencing.

May we all become known as Jesus' disciples of love.

Love is the open door.

Love opens the door to others (Prov. 18:16).

You are loved! -Pastor Mark

Need to Know

1. To view the sermon this Sunday, March 29 either go to:
Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/826960457413916/> - LCN: Things To 'Share')
or Website (<https://www.longviewnaz.org/>)
2. Also available are sermon notes, discussion guide and items you need to know.

3. Sunday, 11 AM you can sit in on a virtual Sunday School class (teens and adults). Feel free to go to any class available even if it's a different one than you might attend on Sunday morning if we were gathering. Here are the Sunday School classes with links to enter.
 - i. Nikki/Shari- *Screwtape Letters*: <https://meetingsamer4.webex.com/meet/nikkirharbison>
 - ii. Darrell's Class: <https://meetingsamer6.webex.com/meet/aharbison33>
 - iii. Alyus's Class:
<https://meetingsamer4.webex.com/meetingsamer4/j.php?MTID=m732c01394e8d886fc506994b843487f6>
4. Online giving of tithes / offerings. Presently there are 3 options:
 - a. Give by writing a check and mailing it to the church (2601 H G Mosley, Longview, TX 75605)
 - b. The district has made online giving available. You can give with a credit card, or paypal or bank account with this method. Here are the steps:
 - Go to <https://www.netxnaz.net/>
 - Donate to a local church
 - Put the amount; Choose a Church, which would be 'LONGVIEW FIRST'; One time, or monthly, then 'NEXT'
 - (Just continue to follow directions – I believe it's pretty simple at this point. Whatever amount you give, the church will receive the full amount. The district is paying for any fees involved). No cost to you or the Longview Church.
 - c. Bill Pay. Some have recently done this and no fee is being charged. You can go to your bank online or call your bank and set up 'bill pay' and they will send a check to the church through the mail. You will have to provide the bank with the churches address.

Thanks for your continued faithfulness in giving.

5. Wednesday night, we will do an online discipleship group. Further instructions will be posted the first of the week as to how and where to do this online. All are invited. Pastor Mark will lead this time together.
6. I have been posting a 1 minute to 1 minute and 30 second video each week. It's a preview of the coming sermon and done to get you to smile a bit. I would like to challenge you and your family to do a 1 minute video on something you've learned from the sermon and how you can live it out. It can be funny and encouraging to the rest of the church. Send it to me (Pastor Mark) and I'll be glad to post it.
7. Post on our Facebook page how the Lord has led you to some open doors for ministry in your life. What was it? What you did? How it blessed someone. Let's share and give Jesus credit for the work He's doing. The bible says, 'He's always at work.' Share His work being done through you and your family.
8. You are commission pastors for your Sunday School class. Take a few minutes this week and check on each other (text, call, drop a care package by, etc)