

March 10 to 16

Education Mission

**God's Son appeared for this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil.
(1 John 3:8 CEB)**

Focus on our loving God!

To be quite honest, this is not my favourite Bible passage! To understand it properly in this day and age, it needs rather a lot of explanation: the prevailing situation when the First Epistle of John was written, the specific language, his style of discussion and the theological debate that was going on at the time. Unfortunately, there's no room for all that in this brief message. However, when taken out of context, this Bible verse gets us on the wrong track completely.

So let's put the verse at least in its proper setting. Chapter 3 begins quite clearly: See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are. This verse is more than just a heading. Together with verse 11, it forms a framework that clearly shows what matters here: God loves us, so we should love each other.

If you ask me, the verses in between should really be left out. They are confusing for us in the here and now, and we aren't familiar with the unnamed background of the day. But unfortunately, these verses in particular tend to be given greater consideration. This shifts the whole weight: in the end we think more about "sin" and about "the works of the devil" than God's indisputable love for us.

So we'll focus on the framework: on love. The focus of Jesus' whole life was on love. He loved in exemplary fashion and preached the loving Abba to us. Let's look at the works of the loving God! That is why the Son of God appeared, that we should be touched and changed by God's love.

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I give thanks

- for God's love for me. Come what may.
- for people who have shown me this love during my life and who have been a role model for me.
- for the days on which I myself "do" love.
- for the possibilities the EmK gives us to help others and support people.

I pray

- that the approaching Lenten period may bring God's love closer to us.
- for the nursing, caring and medical staff in our welfare facilities.
- for people daring to take steps of love in crisis regions.
- for the emergency services working in disaster areas.
- for the work of the EmK World Mission and the work of the Tent Mission.

Education Department

The EmK-Bildungswerk supports the education of adults in congregations, small groups, house groups, seniors' meetings and seminars by providing education materials and training for staff and volunteers. The Bildungswerk also assists congregations in church development and conflict management. It trains lay volunteers in preaching, pastoral counselling and leadership.

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