

## **Fast Facts #10 – 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:16-24**

1. John tells us what real love is. It's not just something we feel, but something we do. Jesus demonstrated that real love on the cross by dying not just for those who loved Him, but even for those who nailed Him to the cross.
2. Lay down our life? Not in some dramatic moment, but in small ways, to help others, to reach others. Read Philippians 2:3-4.
3. The test of real love is to be willing to share with others. And of course, there is "tough love". It may hurt, but it is for the ultimate best.
4. This kind of love brings assurance that we are in a right relationship with the Father through the Son. John is writing to reassure the church and to keep them on the right path against the Gnostics.
5. In verse 22, John discusses the issue of prayer. The key to effective prayer is being in a close relationship with the Father – that we ask the things that are in His heart. Prayer is not an attempt to get God to change His mind. He will always do the best thing. Do we totally understand this? No, but He's God, and we "ain't".
6. We can boil the last two verses down to that we believe on the name of Jesus. This is the most important thing in life, and that we love one another as we have described.
7. We can know that we are in a right relationship with the Father by the abiding in us of His Holy Spirit.