

In 416 AD, Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo, gave a series of sermons on the First Letter of John.

“What is the perfection of love? It is to love our enemies, and to love them to this end: that they may be our brothers and sisters.”

“How can you be so rooted as not to be rooted up? It’s by holding firm in love.”

“Why shouldn’t I love what God has made?”

“God doesn’t forbid you to love these things, but he doesn’t want you to value them as the source of your happiness.”

“Each person is as his love is.”

“The children of God are distinguished from the children of the devil only by love. Those who love are born of God, those who don’t are not.”

“Love is the fullness of the law.”

“But how are we trained in this love? In love of our neighbor.”

“If you love the brother and sister you see, at the same time, you’ll love God too, because you’ll be seeing love itself, and within love God dwells.”

Discussion Questions

1. How is it possible to love your enemy?
2. Is it true that everything is done for the sake of some good?
3. What are some daily habits that turn us toward or turn us away from our neighbors?