

## Crossing “No Man’s Land” 1 John 3:10-18

Mini Movie – The Christmas Truce

If this true story doesn’t cause us to pause & reconsider our positioning, our actions/tactics, why we fight the battles we are fighting today, and how we are to engage our enemies, I don’t know what will!

We may not be living in the time of WW1, but **we are living in the midst of a world at war!** War is alive & well today, even if we are not on a battlefield!

The weapons of our warfare may look different, but they still destroy!

- **We may not be shooting guns, but we’re often quick to shoot off our mouth**
- We may not be dropping bombs, but our insults & curses cause just as much collateral damage!
- **We may not be plotting military attacks, but what we often post online is intended to be an all-out attack on others!**
- We may not be wearing a uniform representing a country at war, but how we fight our battles today reveals much about what side we’re on!

We are at war! With each other, with our own selves, and with the devil, **who is feeding the desire within all of us to destroy one another!**

We often find ourselves in the trenches w/ tactics that look the same as the rival forces in WW1 - We position ourselves against the enemy, dig in deep, launch our weapons when opportunity arises, & **do whatever it takes to win.**

But are we fighting the right war, against the right enemy, are we fighting the right way, and are we pursuing the right outcome?

Let me pause to clarify that I’m not making statements against the wars we have fought as a nation, nor against war itself. War is often needed b/c we live in a broken & fallen world. But war also reveals how far, & how quickly, **we have fallen away from God’s original intent & purpose for His creation.**

This past week we celebrated Veteran’s Day, & it is good/right to remember and honor those who have fought for the cause of freedom in our country! **But what better way to honor them than to strive for what will truly bring about peace** and stop us from killing one another – in both word & deed?

What happened back on Christmas day during WW1 is just a glimpse of

what is possible when God’s people choose a different way!

It was Christmas that brought enemies together in the midst of that war, but Christmas doesn’t bring peace. **Christmas points to the promise that Jesus brings peace!** He himself is the only peace that can end all wars!

We are called to be agents of such peace in our world today as we represent Jesus Christ to the world! I wonder... How are we doing with that?

**What role have Christians played in the midst of the battles that are waging today?** Whether it’s Political, Racial, Sexual (identity/orientation), Viral, etc.

Are we, like those soldiers, stuck in the trenches positioning ourselves against the other side & launching our attacks against them? **Or are we stepping out into “no man’s land” with something other than our weapons?**

John is often called the **“disciple whom Jesus loved”!** Why? Maybe it was b/c John understood what it meant to be loved, & to love in response, more than the rest! **Maybe it is why love is so central to his message!**

**1 John 3:10-18** Jesus said that **love is the summary of all of the Law of God!**

*Why did Cain kill his brother Abel? “Because his own deeds were evil...”*

*Why do we see certain people as our enemies?* **It starts with the sin that lives inside of us, far before it has anything to do with the other person!**

Jesus died to set us free from such sin! Jesus laid down His life for us to show us another way. Jesus was able to love His enemies, because sin was not able to give birth to hate in His life! What about us?

A major weapon of the devil’s warfare is hate! **The greatest weapon that God has given us to fight against such hate, is love!**

What brought the British & the German armies together back in WW1 was Christmas! But Christmas was only for a day.

**What if what gets us out of our trenches today is Christ,** & the love we have received from Him & the love we can give to others through Him?

Maybe love could dispel hate! Maybe life could triumph over death! Maybe righteousness could replace sin! Maybe light could pierce the darkness! **“No man’s land” is no longer, b/c Jesus walked it.** Will we follow?

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