

That You May Know

In Deed & Truth — 1 John 3:11-18

April 7, 2019

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. - **1 John 3:11**

I. WHAT A CHRISTIAN IS NOT

- Once again, John reminds us of something that we have known “from the beginning.” This time, it is in relation to love (1 John 1:1; 2:7; 2:13-14; 2:24; 3:8; 3:11; 2 John 1:5-6).
- Christ-like love has no relation to the hatred and murder observed in the life of Cain (Gen. 4:1-16; John 8:44).
- Hatred abounds in this world—particularly toward Christ and his followers (John 15:18-21, 25; 17:14).

II. WHAT A CHRISTIAN IS AND DOES

- A Christian is someone who has come to realize the true nature of sin. They have learned the value of God’s love, both toward them and toward others (vss. 14-15).

III. WHAT CHRIST’S LOVE DOES TO US

- As is true for almost all positive New Testament lessons, Jesus is our ultimate example (vs. 16).
- Christians:
 1. Are willing to lay down their lives (vs. 16; John 15:12-14).
 2. Give generously to those in need (vs. 17; James 2:14-17).
 3. Love in actions, not just in talk (Matt. 21:28-32).
 4. Love in truthful speech (John 1:14, 17; Eph. 4:11-16).

KNOW: Jesus Christ loves us, and he proved it. We in turn must love our brothers and sisters in Christ (without excluding those in the world). We do so not just in words, but in actions.

DO: Love the church in deed and in truth.

Suggested Reading:

The Mark of the Christian by Francis Schaeffer (LifePoint Library #284.4)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 John 3:11-18

1. What is the overall theme of this section of John’s letter?
2. Why did Cain kill his brother Abel?
3. What is the correlation that John is making between Cain’s rationale for killing his brother and the world’s rationale for hating believers?
4. According to John, what is a sure sign that we have come to know Christ?
5. How do we care for those who have less than we do? Does this text (vss. 17-18) refer to caring for believers, non-believers, or both? Must we give money to everyone who asks for it on the street?
6. How do we love in deed and truth?