

Studies in the Book of 1 John

“How Dwelleth the Love of God in You?”

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Lesson 9

TEXT: I John 3:11-24 *Love is demonstrated by works; not just by words.*

Key Verse: I John 3:16 “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

Commitment in Love 3:11-18

A. Different Priority in Love 3:11-15

1. Vs. 11 “...we should love one another.” John 13:34,35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” The opposite is also true; if you don’t love as you should, we are to believe you are not one of His disciples. (You can be saved and not love)
2. Vs. 12 “Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother “
 - **Was Cain Saved?** NO! Hebrews 11:4 “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous”
 - What was Cain’s sacrifice? Genesis 4:2-5 “...Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.”
3. Vs. 13 “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.”
 - The world first hated Christ. John 15:18-19 Read these verses as you would view a fight between the Flesh and the Spirit births.
 - Light (righteousness) exposes sin. John 3:19,20 “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved {discovered}.”
4. Vs. 14 “We know that we have passed from death unto life (**walking in the Spirit & not in the flesh**), because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death (**Flesh**).” Bold is added by the pastor. The ability to love another person with agape love is an outward sign that God is living in me. Romans 5:5 “...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” As long as a believer hates his brother, he is abiding (continuing, remaining) in broken fellowship with God.

5. Vs. 15 “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer”; Hatred of another person is the spiritual equivalent to murder, just like a lustful eye is equivalent to adultery (Matt. 5:28). “ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”; This is another one of those difficult verses.

Two important questions we must ask ourselves;

- Can a believer hate another person? Yes, but only in the flesh.
- Can a Christian ever be guilty of murder? What does scripture say? The answer is yes. David was guilty of murder of the husband of Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite, (II Sam. 12:9). Moses was also guilty of murder, (Ex. 2:14) Peter was aiming purposefully at the head of the priest in the garden when he only got the ear. Let’s not forget what Peter said in I Peter 4:15 “*But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters.*” Why would Peter say this is a believer was not capable of murder?

When a Christian is guilty of hatred, the flesh is in control of his or her life. Paul said in Romans 6:4 “*that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*”. Christians should walk in newness of life, but this doesn’t mean they always will.

B. Divine Pattern for Love 3:16-18

1. Vs. 16 Love is perceived in action.
 - Notice: This is a good verse for the deity of Christ. When did God lay down His life for us?
2. Vs. 17 “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”
 - This is a question with an implied answer; “how dwelleth the love of God in Him?”. It doesn’t. If a believer is allowing the Spirit of God to control him (Spirit filled), He will manifest God’s love and help a brother in need. Gal. 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love,”
3. Vs. 18 “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”
 - My little Children shows that these verses are written to believers in order that they may know how they should live.
 - Agape love is an action word. “For God so loved the world, that He gave...”. If the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, it will be shown by our actions.

- **Question: How does the Love of God show through your life?**