

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 33 – 1John 3:11-18 – Part 2)

### I. Review:

#### A. TO LOVE SOMEBODY: Part 1

1. If love was merely a hug, we all would excel in love!
2. Love is more challenging because it requires putting others ahead of you
  - a. The greatest example and act of love is found at the cross (cf. 1John 3:16)
    - i. By this, we can define love as *“a self-sacrificing, caring commitment that shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved”*
3. John now discusses another litmus test of the true disciple:
  - a. In 1John 2:28-3:10, he addressed the test of obedience to Christ
  - b. And now, he is going to address the social test of loving one another
4. He begins in verse 11, reminding the true believer of Christ’s command to love one another (cf. John 13:34-35)

#### B. TO LOVE SOMEBODY: Part 2

1. *“For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”* (1John 3:11 ESV)
  - a. Love is putting others first
  - b. It is taking care of their needs before taking care of your needs
  - c. It is God’s guidance on how His children ought to treat others
    - i. Four types of rules
      1. The Iron Rule:
        - It says, *“Do to others as you like, before they do it to you”*
        - It’s motto is *“might makes right”*
        - It is the rule of force and power!
        - It is the total opposite of the golden rule...
        - **Question: What are some examples of the Iron Rule?**
          - a. When Cain killed Able (1John 3:12)
          - b. Hitler, who killed millions of Jews in order to create a master race.
          - c. The “Roe vs. Wade” case, which allows a woman to destroy her unborn child in order to facilitate her personal interests.
          - d. Anyone who uses his/her power for personal advantage:
            - i. A bullying husband and father
            - ii. A manipulative woman
          - e. Anyone caught up in an addiction:
            - i. Drug addict, alcoholic, gambler, etc. will resort to stealing in order to satisfy their craving.

## 2. The Bronze Rule:

- It says, “*Do do others as they would do to you*”
- **Jesus taught against this rule in Mt. 5:43-48:**  
*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?<sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?<sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*
  - i. The world only loves those who love them.
  - ii. Not so with the children of God
  - iii. The word, “perfect,” in the Greek, denotes completeness; maturity.
  - iv. Just as God loves the godly as well as the ungodly – for He has perfect love -- so the child of God is to possess perfect love, loving both the saint and the sinner.
- **Question: What are some examples of the Bronze Rule?**
  - a. When a person hits back.
  - b. When a person mistreats those who mistreat him/her.
  - c. When a person invites those who invited him/her for dinner. (cf. Lk. 14:12-13)
  - d. When a disciple only hugs those who are fellow disciples.
    - i. It is interesting to note that the Greek word for “greet” in Matthew 5:47 denotes “to embrace” (same with Romans 16:16)
    - ii. Jesus said if you greet (embrace) only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? (Mt. 5:47)

## 3. The Silver Rule:

- It says, “*Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you*”
  - a. It is the negative of the golden rule...

#### 4. The Golden Rule:

- It says, “*Do to others what you would want them to do to you*”
  - a. Jesus said in Matthew 7:12, “*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*”
    - i. Note: Jesus said this rule summarizes the Law and the Prophets.
    - ii. This rule points to agape love, because Jesus, in Matthew 22:37-40 said the Law and the Prophets hang on the principle of love!
    - iii. Therefore, love does to others as it would like others to do to it.
- The motto of the Golden Rule is “I’ll return good for evil”
- **Question: What are some examples of the Golden Rule?**
  - a. The crucifixion of Jesus!
  - b. When we forgive each other.
- The Golden Rule is the rule of righteous men!
- Christ practiced this rule and so do those who are born of God (cf. 1John 2:28-3:10).

Lord willing, we will continue with 1John 3:11-18 in our next session.