

The First Epistle of John

(Week 34 – 1John 3:11-18 – Part 3)

I. Review:

A. TO LOVE SOMEBODY: Part 3

1. *“For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”* (1John 3:11 ESV)
 - a. Four types of rules
 - i. The Iron Rule:
 1. It says, *“Do to others as you like, before they do it to you”*
 - ii. The Bronze Rule:
 1. It says, *“Do to others as they would do to you”*
 - iii. The Silver Rule:
 1. It says, *“Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you”*
 - iv. The Golden Rule:
 1. It says, *“Do to others what you would want them to do to you”*

II. TO LOVE SOMEBODY: Part 3

A. 1John 3:12, *“We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.”*

1. The Iron Rule in action:

- a. John uses Cain as a negative example.
- b. Hebrews 11:4a (ESV) says, *“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain...”*
 - i. Since faith comes by hearing God’s word (cf. Romans 10:17), we must assume that God had revealed to Cain and Abel the proper kind of sacrifice He requires.
 - ii. Abel, because of faith, obeyed God and offered an acceptable offering.
 - iii. Cain, on the other hand, in defiance, offered an unacceptable offering.
 1. Cain could have corrected the problem but instead, he chose to eliminate the one who made him look bad!
- c. Why did Cain kill Abel?
 - i. *“...Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous”* (1John 3:12b)
 1. Cain was of the evil one.
 - 1John 3:8a, *“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil...”*
 - It was Abel’s righteousness that exposed Cain’s unrighteousness.
 - In this manner, the child of God become as “Abels” in a world of “Cains.”
 - And the world will hate you! This is why John says in verse 13, *“Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you”*

2. **Cain murdered his brother (he hated him)!**
 - **Question: Murder is an extreme example of hate. What are some “lesser” examples of hate?**
 - a. Jesus said in Luke 6:22 (ESV), “*Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man*”
 - b. Hatred ostracizes (disassociates)
 - c. Hatred insults (gossip, demeans the character of others)
 - d. Hatred brands the faithful child of God as an evildoer
 - e. At best, hatred becomes:
 - i. Avoidance of others
 - ii. Indifference
 - iii. Causing divisions
 - f. At worse, hatred becomes murder!
3. **Cain typifies those who deliberately defy the instructions of the Lord.**
 - **Instead of listening to God’s warning to repent, (Gen. 4:6-7), Cain killed his brother.**
 - **We must be careful not to fall into this same predicament because a child of God is known for his love for his brother:**
 - a. **A child of God loves God and expresses that love through obedience to God (cf. John 14:15; 1John 5:13).**
 - b. **Therefore, if a spirit of bitterness or slander or malice starts to brew within, the child of God submits to the Lord’s command to get rid of it! (cf. Eph 4:31; Col. 3:8)**
 - **Cain, who typifies hatred, was out to harm his brother!**
 - a. **Hatred is out to harm!**
 - **On the other hand, love goes out to minister!**
 - a. **Romans 13:10 says love does no harm to its neighbor.**
 - b. **For this reason, when a child of God is wronged by another child of God, in love, he/she goes and privately discusses the matter just between the two (Matt. 18:15)**
 - c. **When a child of God struggles against the misdeeds of the flesh, he/she puts those misdeeds to death by the Spirit (Romans 8:13)**