

# The First Epistle of John

## (Week 35 – 1John 3:11-18 – Part 4)

### I. Review:

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. Cain was of the evil one (he practiced unrighteousness)
2. Cain killed his brother because he had hatred in his heart
3. Cain disregarded the word of God (Gen. 4:6-7)
4. Cain was out to harm his brother

### B. Side point:

1. Hatred is motivated by personal sin
2. Cain killed Abel because his own deeds were evil
3. Although hatred may be directed toward other people, the hateful person is at odds with God

### II. TO LOVE SOMEBODY: Part 4

A. 1John 3:14, “*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.*”

1. A person whose life is marked by hateful of others shows no evidence of new life in Christ.
  - a. Such persons remain in spiritual death.
2. Although the world is marked by hatred – the self-centered, ‘look out for number one’ mentality, the Church is marked by its love
  - i. Hatred is typified by Adam’s first-born, Cain (1John 3:12)
    1. Cain typifies those who live under the rule of the devil
    2. And anyone who makes it a practice to hate his brothers is a murderer
      - In what sense is he/she a murderer?
        - a. The same bitter spirit that lead Cain to murder his brother resides in those who do not love their brothers.
    3. John goes on to say that murderers do not have eternal life...
      - 1John 3:15, “*Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*”
        - a. John is not saying no murderer will be saved:
          - i. Paul was a murderer before he obeyed the gospel (Acts 8)
          - ii. David murdered Uriah and later was forgiven. (2Sam. 11)
          - iii. John is addressing those who make sin their lifestyle (1John 3:8)

ii. Love is typified by God's first-born, Jesus:

1. 1John 3:16, "*By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*"

- The cross is the supreme demonstration of what agape love (God's love) is.
- Many passages in the Bible, when addressing agape love, point to the cross:
  - a. John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*"
  - b. Galatians 2:20, "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*"
  - c. Romans 5:8, "*but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*"
  - d. Ephesians 5:25, "*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*"
- Just as Christ laid His life down for us, we ought to lay our lives down for each other
  - a. Lay our lives down by serving one another
  - b. Lay our lives down by being humble towards one another
  - c. Lay our lives down by having concern for one another
  - d. Lay our lives down by forgiving one another
  - e. And the greatest act of all, love expressed by a willingness to die for one another
  - f. Side Note:
    - i. Jesus showed no favoritism, He died for all
    - ii. Therefore, agape-love loves the obscure brother as much as the well-known brother!
    - iii. For this reason, we ought never treat certain brothers with greater honor than other brethren simply because they are preachers, missionaries or keynote speakers.

2. John gives a practical of a “less extreme” act of love:
  - 1John 3:17-18, “*But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? (18) Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*”
    - a. **Question: If a person is able to help a brother in need and doesn’t, would he really be willing to die for him?**
      - i. If one is not willing to demonstrate a “lesser” act of love, they would not be willing to demonstrate the greatest act of love
    - b. **John gives the same practical advice James gave to the Christians:**
      - i. James 2:15-17, “*If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, (16)and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? (17)So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*”
    - c. **Make sure to live love, not merely speak love! (1John 3:18).**