

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church
Baptist Training Union

1st, 2nd and 3rd John
How Should A Christian Live

Study 7 – Putting Love Into Action: – 1 John 3:11 – 24

11. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,
12. Not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.
13. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.
14. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.
15. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
16. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
17. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
18. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
19. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
20. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
21. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.
22. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
23. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
24. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Discussion

- A. What beginning is John referring to? Describe how this verse is related to what John said about “sin” and “those born of God”. Who are the “one another” John has in mind? v. 11
- B. Contrast how we are commanded to love to what Cain did to his brother. Why does John said Cain “is of or belonged to the evil one”? Describe “evil vs righteous deeds”. v. 12
- C. Who or what is “the world” John is talking about who “hates” you? How does this verse relate to the “evil and righteous deeds” in v. 12. Why would or do they hate “you”? v. 13.
- D. Explain your understanding of “passing from death to life”? Who are the brethren we are called to love? Describe “abiding in death”. v. 14.
- E. How does John use the word “hate” here in this verse? (See Luke 14:26)? Is he using it like Jesus used it? Is it used differently in previous verses? If so, how? If not, why not? v. 15.
- F. John says that everyone who “hates” his brother is a “murderer”. Why does John refer to anyone this way even if they have not physically killed someone? v. 15
- G. Jesus sacrificed or “lain down” his life for us. How can and do we do the same for our brother? Be specific. Again, who is “the brother”? v. 16.
- H. What does it say about us if and when we are indifferent about the needs of others? Apply what Jesus called the 2nd Commandment to this verse (Mark 12:31). v. 17.
- I. How can we “love” in word or speech, but not in action or truth? Compare James 2:14-17 with this verse. How are they similar in meaning? v. 18
- J. “By this”. What is “this” John is talking about? What is it to be “of the truth” (see John 18:37)? What is an “assured heart” before God? v. 19
- K. What should we know if in our heart as believers we guilty of falling short in loving or God’s expectations? When should we feel or have “confidence” toward or with God? v. 20-21.
- L. What enables us to “ask whatever” of God? Describe “whatever” we can ask of God that God will give. Why wouldn’t we or don’t we receive “whatever” we have asked? v. 22.
- M. Read James 20:19. What is the difference between the “belief” James describes and the “belief” John says we should have in Jesus? How does John conclude this section? v. 23.
- N. What is an “abiding” relationship? What are two ways of knowing we have an “abiding” relationship with the Father and Son? v. 24,