

## 1 John 3:11-18 – By This We Know Love

### Introduction

1. Left off last week with **1 John 3:10** – The moral test of the Christian Faith: Do we obey the Commands of Christ?
2. Practical Atheism: I believe God and then behave as if Jesus does not reign over my life
3. This week – the social test of the Christian Faith: Do we love God's People?
4. The Offspring of the Devil hates the Children of God, those who practice righteousness

**Main Point: The message of God springing from Conversion by the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that we love God's Church. The Way of Cain is the way of hatred for God's people. The Way of Christ is the way of love for God's people.**

### Love is the Message and Command of God (vv 11, 18)

1. The World's Idea of Love: Sentimentalism, Emotionalism
2. Biblical Love is Concrete and Other-Focused: It is Active and Noticeable
3. *From the Beginning:* From your conversion, from Jesus' Ministry, From the Law of Moses, the Garden of Eden
4. The Message Is Always the Same: *Love One Another!*
  - a. **See John 13:34 and Leviticus 19:18**
5. *Love One Another* is a Command – At new birth we are given new hearts that are able to love as God commands
  - a. **See Ezekiel 11:19-20**
6. Love is Action in Accordance with the Truth of God
  - a. Love One Another in Deed and in Truth
  - b. Love Without Deeds is Dead (**See James 2:15-17**)
  - c. Love Without Truth is Hypocrisy – Christians love the truth by believing in & submitting to what is revealed
  - d. True Belief does not promote things that are outside of the Truth of God's Holy Word

### Hate: The Way of Cain and This World (vv 12-15)

1. The Example of Hate: Cain Slew His Brother Abel
  - a. Cain – a picture of the offspring of the evil one
  - b. Cain Worshiped God in His Way rather than God's Way: through the shedding of blood (**Hebrews 11:4**)
  - c. Cain hated the righteousness of the family of God
  - d. *People who live in the dark are uncomfortable with people who live in the light* – reminds the world of sin
  - e. Cain Claimed He Was Not His Brother's Keeper

2. The Command to the Church: *Do not be surprised!*
  - a. The World practices the Way of Cain – malign & murder
  - b. The World Hates Christians and if the chance arises, slays the Church (Ex: Martyrs in the World, Maligning)
  - c. We are called to love our enemy without watering down the truth of God
  - d. Hateful anger is from a murderous heart (**Matt 5:21-22**)
3. The Application: The Assurance of Eternal Life is Based on Loving God's People
  - a. Christians pass from Death to Life at Conversion, New Birth – A New Set of Loves is Created
  - b. You love God's Truth and His People
  - c. You become Your Brother's Keeper

### Love: The Way of Christ and The Christian (vv 16-18)

1. The Example of Love: Jesus Laid His Life Down for His Brethren – Brothers and Sisters of God
  - a. Jesus saw our Greatest Need – we were dead in sin, blind to the truth, living in hate, rebellious to God's Law
  - b. Jesus died for sinners (**Romans 5:6-8**)
  - c. Christ gave Eternal Life, a transformed heart leading to a transformed way of living
2. The Command to the Church: Christian Love Lays Aside Life for the Sake of Other Believers
3. The Application: Ordinary Practical Means to Inconvenience Yourself for the Sake of Your Fellow Believer
  - a. Give to those in need – give yourself to the needs of church ministry (time, talents, energy, money, presence)
  - b. God's Love displayed through you is to become exposed and vulnerable to others – broken hearts will happen
  - c. The Lord became broken for His sheep (**John 15:13**)
4. The Bond of Christian Community: Everlasting Joy in Christ, in the Everlasting Family of God

### Application

1. Your deeds of Love are Supreme in the Church Now and in Eternity – abilities and talent is not, we will be judged according to our deeds
2. Right belief without Love is Demonic – Right Doctrine Absent of love is not of God (**James 2:19**)
3. Our love never merits/earns eternal life – we love because Christ loved us first (**1 John 4:19**)
4. If you do not understand this love, look to Christ – observe the Cross for only Jesus saves us from loveless hearts & lives