

## DON'T BE SURPRISED BY HATE 1 John 3:11-14

### INTRODUCTION

1. Most agree that we are living in a society of escalated anger, hatred, and violence in our country.
2. Is that the case? (Which I believe it is.) Then what is behind it? Is it mere politics? Is it merely differences of ideology?
3. In our current text, John is dealing with the issue of love and hate.
4. With *love* and *hate* as operative concepts, John identifies the characteristics of those *in the light* and those *in the darkness*, or those *who are children of God* and those *who are the children of the devil*.
5. John provides insight into what we are currently experiencing in our society, our workplaces, and even our families.

**MESSAGE THEME:** *Under challenging times, live with a Kingdom understanding regarding the source and dynamics of hatred and love.*

### REVIEW

- John provides evidence of one in fellowship with God.
  1. *Pursuit of righteousness and obedience to God,*
  2. *Pursuit of God's love toward Him and His people,*
  3. *Pursuit of truth regarding Jesus Christ, God, and life in Christ.*

**1 John 3:11–14** (ESV) *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 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. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.*

**LOVE AND MURDER**      vs. 11-12  
**The Message**              vs. 11

**1 John 3:11** (ESV) *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*

- John opens this section by stating that this is the message *you heard from the beginning*.
  - In **1:5**, he said this is the message we have heard from Him. In that verse, John says the message is “*God is light.*”
  - Here, in **3:11**, John says that they had heard from the beginning that “*we should love one another.*”
  - Back in the first chapter, John went on to say that if you claim to be in a relationship with God, who is light, your life will reflect God's character and nature

of light.

- Later on in chapter two, John further explains regarding one who lives in the light.

**1 John 2:9-10** *The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*

- There is a relationship between the first *statement you have heard from the beginning* and the second *statement you have heard from the beginning*.
  - A characteristic of light is love. *God is light* in **1:5**, and *God is love* in **4:8**.
- Therefore, those born of God are in the *light* and, therefore, must and will reflect the essence of God, that of *love*.
- The message heard from the beginning is quoted in John's gospel.

**John 13:34-35** *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

### **The Explanation** vs. 12

**1 John 3:12 (ESV)** *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.*

- John now uses an interesting account to illustrate and define the parameters of this love in the beginning message.

#### 1. **Cain and Abel**

- John immediately contrasts this command to love to the account of Cain and Able.
  - Adam and Eve were created without sin; their lives were without guilt, chaos, heartache, anger, jealousy, strife, dissension, selfishness, destructive attitudes, and behaviors resulting from sin.
    - Their lives were filled with joy, peace, self-control, true happiness, and genuine love for one another in a pristine environment, a paradise for living.
  - One day, Adam and Eve made a choice. This decision was to disregard and disobey God willfully.
  - Everyone born after Adam and Eve were born with the sin principle or nature.
  - Children were born to them; the first two were sons Cain and Abel.
  - In this account, one brother, Cain, became consumed with jealousy and anger toward the other brother, Abel, to such a degree that it had its ultimate expression in a brutal act of murder. (**Genesis 4: 1-8**)
  - This is more than an account that deals with *anger management or inter-relational family skills* or a case study on the *psychological effects of early childhood trauma on adult behavior*.

## 2. **The Pertinent Issues**

### a. **Cain of the Evil One**

- He was of the evil one. His fellowship of existence was that of evil, darkness, hatred, and lies.
- He *was of the evil one and murdered his brother. . .*,
  - Remember that Satan lies, steals, and destroys. He is a murderer. He seeks to devour.
- This contrasts with the being of God.
  
- John's letter has addressed the fundamental question, "Of who do you belong?"
  - Are you in fellowship with God or the devil, light or darkness?
- How people live will give evidence of this fundamental question.
- **One World – Two Realms: the spiritual realm is behind what we see in the natural realm.**

### b. **Cain and Evil Deeds**

- What provoked Cain's jealousy was that *his deeds were evil and Abel's deeds were righteous*.
- Cain's jealousy was not provoked by coveting Abel's greater gifts or possessions but by resenting his greater righteousness.
  - God told him that his sacrifice would have been accepted if he had done what was right (**vs. 7**).
  - **Hebrews 11:4** tells us that it was by "faith" that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did.
  - That chapter closely associates "faith" with "obedience," so we may safely assume that God had made His will known to them both.
- **Apparently, Abel responded to God in obedience, while Cain responded in self-will, or as John states, "in lawlessness."**
- **Abel's righteous obedience incited Cain's evil heart.**
  - *Cain's actions disregarded his affinity to Abel as a blood-related brother.*
  - He may have been a physical brother but not a spiritual brother.
  - One's relationship with God supersedes one's physical relationship regarding fidelity and devotion.

**Matthew 12:47-50** *And someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You."48 But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold, My mother and My brothers!50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."*

- Cain's enmity with God superseded his physical relationship with his brother Abel.
- **Cain's choice toward God affected his relationship with his brother.**

- Anger toward God translated to rage toward his brother simply because his brother did righteously.

## **THE STORY'S RELEVANCE**

vs. 13-14

### **Hatred and the World's System**

vs. 13

1 John 3:13 (ESV) *Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.*

- Using the account of Cain and Abel, John opens verse 13 with, "Do not be surprised if the world hates you."
- If Cain disregarded his blood relationship with his brother to kill him, out of anger towards God, then don't be shocked if those who are of the *world* hate you.
- **As we saw in 2:15, the world is the system that aggressively opposes God.**
  - The system under Satan's control is intrinsically opposed to God with an aggressive hostility against Him and His truth. (**Burge p 114-115**)
- Cain was the prototype of the *world*, or the world is Cain's posterity.
  - By its disregard for and hatred toward God's righteousness and those who subscribe to it is simply giving evidence of their true spiritual condition.
- Jesus warned His disciples of this relational dynamic in some of His last words before His arrest and crucifixion.

**John 15:18-21** "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

- John is saying there is and will be hostility between those who are God's children and everyone else who is not.
  - It will be to varying degrees and to the point that it invades one's ability to live unto themselves.

### **Love is Evidence and Assurance**

vs. 14

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

- John interprets the significance of one who has a continuing love for the Christian community or family of God.
  - It shows that one *has passed out of death into life*.
- A fruit of being in that fellowship or relationship with God is that you will *love those who are also of God*. A desire to be in community with God's people.
- An authentic God-quality of love expresses God's transforming life and power at work in those who belong to Him.
- Love is set forth as the preeminent Christian virtue.

- Fruit of the Spirit is *love Galatians 5:22*
- The reality and expression of faith through *love Gal. 5:6.*
- Anything done that is not of love has no value **1 Cor. 13:1-3.**
- The greatest of the three Christian graces is *love 1 Cor. 13:13.*
- Having a love for God's people, because you have a love for God, because you have God's life in you because you have eternal life is a sure sign you have been spiritually born of God's life, seed, and nature.

### **APPLICATION**


#### **Don't Be Shocked When Confronted by Hatred.**

- An attitude of animosity and antagonism of non-Christians toward the God-ordained value systems, priorities, attitudes, and lifestyles of Christians should not come as a surprise.
- Such a response is toward God and His design and demand for righteous attitudes and activity.

#### **Love For God's People Is an Evidence**

- If one has a God-love for God's people, you can have the assurance of being one of God's children. If one has a disregard for God's people or animosity for God's people, it is evidence you are not one of God's children.

**FINAL SLIDE:** *Living in Discernment and Certainty in an Uncertain World requires living with a Kingdom understanding regarding the source and dynamics of hatred and love.*




the epistle of  
**1 JOHN**

*LIVING IN DISCERNMENT AND CERTAINTY IN  
AN UNCERTAIN WORLD*

MESSAGE THEME: *Under challenging times, live with a Kingdom understanding regarding the source and dynamics of hatred and love.*

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*Cain & Abel*

*The Pertinent Issues*

Cain – of the Evil One



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APPLICATION



*Don't Be Shocked*

*Love for God and His People is Evidence*

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