



Sisters & Brothers? (1 John 3:10-24)

What would happen if those who claim Christ lived in purity and treated each other like family? Today we discover what God expects from those who claim to be His children.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

1 John 3:9-10 (ESV) whoever does not practice righteousness **is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.**

Christians are children of God, but no Christian is an "only child".

BIG TRUTH: Christians are expected to live in purity & love one another.

🌟 **David Allen** "LOVE IS THE circulatory system of the church. If the arteries of love get clogged, the church is in danger of spiritual cardiac arrest."¹

Love One Another

1 John 3:11-13 (CSB) For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: **We should love one another**, unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. **Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.**

As was the case with **Cain, who murdered his own brother**, *the actions of those who DO what is RIGHT convict those who do what is WRONG. Those who DON'T want to submit to authorities often want to distance themselves from those who DO - especially if they are running from the ULTIMATE JUDGE - the Creator of all.*

So, **do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.** John got this teaching from Jesus.

John 15:18-20 If the world hates you, understand that **it hated me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, **because you are not of the world**, but I have chosen you out of it, **the world hates you.** Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Christians should expect to get shots fired at us from a Christ-less culture. But, *what about when we receive 'friendly fire' - from those who are supposed to be on the same team?*

How do YOU treat fellow Christians?

1 John 3:14-15 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

Our love for our fellow Christians is a gauge for the condition of our souls! John equates the person who claims Christ yet **hates his brother or sister** with Cain murdering Abel! *Where do you suppose John got this from?* Jesus said.

Matthew 5:21-24 You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, and **whoever murders will be subject to judgment.** But I tell you, **everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment.** Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire. So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister**, and then come and offer your gift.

¹ David L. Allen, *1-3 John: Fellowship in God's Family*, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 151.

➡ Our Heavenly Father *expects* His children to make things right and act like FAMILY!

❓ *Do you LOVE your Christian brothers and sisters? Is there a brother/sister you need to go to make things right? If you won't go, then WHO ARE YOU DISOBEYING?*

What would Jesus do?

1 John 3:16-18 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. **We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.** If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? Little children, **let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.**

We *SHOULD* communicate LOVE with our words, but our love must be *more than words*. When a fellow believer needs help, and we can, we should. May we **encourage them with words** and **love them with our actions**.

Christians are expected to live in purity & love one another.

And when we do...

1 John 3:19-20 This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will **reassure our hearts before Him whenever our hearts condemn us**; for **God is greater than our hearts**, and he knows all things.

Does your heart ever **condemn** you? Sometimes that's a GOOD THING!

☀ **John MacArthur** "*The conscience then is God's guilt-producing warning device, given to every person to confront sin. In the same way that pain is a physical warning mechanism that tells people they have a bodily injury or illness, the conscience is a spiritual warning mechanism that alerts of conduct dangerous to the soul.*"²

➡ God uses conscience as an internal warning to get us to respond to His discipline - *for His glory and for our good*.

❓ **What about the times when we are attempting to follow Jesus faithfully and our hearts condemn us? How can we KNOW that we know Him?**

1 John 3:19-20 This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will **reassure our hearts before Him whenever our hearts condemn us**; for **God is greater than our hearts**, and he knows all things.

When **Christians live in purity and love one another**, we can simply TRUST that **God is greater than our hearts** - *we trust what God says is over how we feel*.

☀ **Trust and Obey**

(v1) When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

(v3) Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

What are the benefits when we TRUST & OBEY God?

1 John 3:21-22 Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, **we have confidence before God** and **receive whatever we ask from him** because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight.

When we **believe** in **Jesus**, we trust Him - when we trust Him, we **keep His commands** - *when we keep His commands, this pleases God. This is a picture of love and loyalty, resulting in our confidence before God and God answers our prayers!*

² John MacArthur, 1, 2, 3 John, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2007), 142.

Do YOU have confidence that you are in a right relationship with God? IF NOT...then here's what needs to happen:

1 John 3:23-24 Now this is his command: that we **believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ**, and **love one another as he commanded us**. The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he has given us.

John tells his audience to **believe in Jesus** and **keep His commands** = Trust and Obey Jesus and to **love one another** the way Jesus has commanded us to.

Christians are expected to live in purity & love one another.

FEET2FAITH

Are YOU in right relationship with God? If not, what are you waiting on?

👉 **TRUST and OBEY JESUS.**

Are YOU in right relationship with your sisters and brothers?

👉 **Make things right with your brothers and sisters.** Don't wait on them to come to you.

🗨 Oh that we would be QUICK to reconcile and extend mercy as God has been merciful to us!

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717).