


1 John 3: 11-18 "Others"

The mind blowing, amazing, gift from God . . . 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed or *lavished* on us that we should be called children of God!

 John 1:12 To as many as receive Him to them He gave the right to become children of God,
2 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty,"

Jesus Christ took our position on the Cross in order that we might take the position of the Son in heaven.

 **REMEMBER WHY JESUS CAME! NOT JUST TO SAVE US FROM HELL BUT TO ADOPT US AS CHILDREN SO WE COULD BE IN HIS FAMILY.**


Ending verse 2... we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

LIKE HIM... First, we will have glorified resurrected bodies in Heaven.

Second like Him as we will have a **PURIFIED** character.

Third like Him as we will have a **SATISFIED** heart.

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

 **As one man said, "In essence God and Satan are the heads of two families. You are either a child of God or of Satan. Every person who has not been born into the family of God is a member of the family of Satan. The new birth determines what family you are in today. If you have not repented of your sin and believed on Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are still in the**

family of Satan. At the risk of being too culturally colloquial, in essence John is asking us a crucial question: **“WHO’S YOUR DADDY?” PRAY**

1 John 3 1- 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.

AS HUGHES NOTES, *“Love is the circulatory system of the church. If the arteries of love get clogged, the church is in danger of **spiritual cardiac arrest**. One key evidence of spiritual maturity in our lives is the depth of our love for one another. John returns to this theme of Christian love for a second time. Interestingly, when it comes to love, John speaks of four different levels of relationships in which we can choose to live: murder (vv. 11-12), hatred (vv. 13-15), indifference (vv. 16-17), and Christian love in action (v. 18).”*

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Genesis 4 middle of verse 2... Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **Both noble professions and Cain followed the footsteps of his father.** ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. *Was this their first offering brought to the Lord... we don't know. We do know that something was wrong with Cain's offering...*

And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering.



Why was Abel's offering acceptable and Cain's was not? Not simply because animal offerings were better than grain offerings... The Old Testament honors both types... No doubt there is more to it than that.

Abel was a man of faith... as a matter of fact he is the first one listed in Hebrews 11's Hall of Faith. Abel had brought according to Hebrews a **"more excellent sacrifice"**. I think God had given some instructions and Abel obeyed and Cain did not. In Matt. 23 Jesus describes Abel as righteous and in Luke as a prophet of God.

Abel came on God's terms and Cain came on his own. Our own terms are always a sign of pride... God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Abel was a type of Jesus.

- ⚡ He was a shepherd who offered a lamb accepted by God.
- ⚡ He was hated without a cause, and killed by his brother. He died violently, and his blood cries out from the ground.

The only difference is Abel's blood cried out vengeance. Jesus' blood cries out mercy.

God is just and would have a very good reason to not accept Cain's so again the text tells us ending verse 4 And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain

was very angry, and his countenance fell. Now we see the dark heart of Cain... angry with God when he was the one who disobeyed his command.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? I told you what to bring to me, why are you bummed at me. ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? We can turn this around... God gives grace... change your behavior... bring an offering from a broken and contrite spirit and we can turn this frown around... God in another act of grace and mercy shows him the outcome of his arrogance should he not change... And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." *The NIV renders it, "sin is crouching at your door". New Century says, "sin is ready to attack you. SIN IS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL STALKING ITS PREY.*

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,

The Vulgate has **(the sin standing around us)**. Probably this is the true idea here, "the easily encompassing (or surrounding) sin." The verbal adjective reminds one of the ring of wild beasts in the jungle that encircle the camp-fire at night each ready to pounce upon a careless victim.

Satan a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour...

The sin which encircles and encamps around us **always** in wait Cain stood at the edge of hell... God's words shot like arrows but bounced off Cain's proud and hardened heart...

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will **not** allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the **temptation** will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. **Cain went the "way of Cain"**

Verse 8... Now Cain talked with Abel his **brother**; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his **brother** and killed him. **Twice we are reminded this was his brother... not just homicide but fratricide**

 **Bottom line... Cain demonstrated his spiritual and ethical relationship to Satan when he acted as he did.**

John uses a word for “murder” in the Greek New Testament that means **“TO BUTCHER OR SLAUGHTER.”** Rendered literally, it would be translated “to cut the throat.” Abel died a violent death at the hands of his own brother. This illustrates the fact that it is often the nature of the wicked to hate the righteous.

The heart of Satan... if he had a heart... kill, steal, destroy. John calls Cain “wicked one” John had referred to “the devil” in verse 8, and now he refers to him as “the evil one,” which connects Cain’s evil heart and deed with it’s **ultimate source, Satan.**

John answers three questions about Cain in these verses. **First**, where did Cain come from? **Answer: “the evil one.”** **Second**, What did Cain do? **Answer: he “murdered his brother.”** **Third**, why did Cain do it? **Answer: “his own deeds were evil.”** Cain failed the test of love for his brother. **Don’t go the way of CAIN!**

Verse 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

CHICK-FIL-A When [Dan T. Cathy](#) lovingly and biblical told the truth that he believed that marriage was between one man and one woman... **the media went nuts... boycotts everywhere.** Oh how the world hates the truth! Dan Cathy is a homophobe! He hates homosexuals...

They provide free food for those who donate blood to the victims of the Orlando shootings and the media SAYS almost NOTHING.

Why are Christians hated so much? Taken from R C Sproul’s [The Holiness of God](#).

The world says, “Your virtue makes us look bad and feel guilty; you must be damaged and destroyed.” The truth is that many in the world, especially the elites, would far prefer to be surrounded with homosexuals, thieves,

polygamists, criminals, and every false religionist under the sun, than to spend time with a holy Christian. The former make them feel good about themselves, the Christian makes them feel guilty.” Therefore the Christian must be destroyed. **Verse 13** Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

Finishing verse 13... 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. **Guzik said**, “This speaks to our pursuit of fellowship. If we love the brethren, we will want to be with them- and even if we have been battered and bruised by unloving brethren, there will still be something in us drawing us back to fellowship with the brethren we love.”

? Is it ok to love someone even though you don't like them? Boy I sure hope so or else I'm doomed. Liking is a matter of personal preference. Loving is a matter of obedience to Christ and the Word of God. **Loving people you don't like means treating them as if you did like them!**

↗ The world cannot love people the way Christians do because God has not allowed them to pass from “death to life”.

15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

MATTHEW 5 VERSE 21... You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, **Exodus 20 verse 17** “You shall not murder”. The 6th commandment... Not taking the heart of the command they would say anything short of murder would be ok. **JUST LEAVE THEM BREATHING.** Crazy how wicked **OUR** hearts can become.

Always looking for the loophole. When I tithe? Gross or Net; How far can I go with my girlfriend before it becomes a sexual sin. How much nudity in a movie is ok... Always wanting to get as close to the cliff as we can

without falling off. That was the religious leaders...what can I get away with without breaking the law?

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' This is what the Pharisees would say as they added to the command... Jesus adds to the law of Moses a deeper understanding into the heart of God

In Matthew 5 verse 22 in Jesus said "I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.

"anger" is only one letter short of **"danger"** **BECAUSE DANGER ALWAYS LURKS BENEATH ANGER.** *You might be able to disguise it temporarily, but if anger is brewing inside you, it will lead to danger, FOR MURDER BEGINS IN THE HEART.*

Jesus places such value upon human relationships. Jesus exposes the essence of the scribes' heresy. To them, the law was really only a matter of **EXTERNAL PERFORMANCE**, **NEVER THE HEART.** Jesus says what is in your heart matters... and what matters to God matters and **"MATTERS OF THE HEART"...** **MATTER!**

DON'T BE PROUD you haven't done the **DEED**, when the **SEED** is in your heart. So you've never pulled the trigger – **powder burns and medal filings aren't on your hands - Wished someone dead? MURDER IN YOUR HEART!** The question is not so much, what did you do but what did you want to do? So Jesus taught that what makes an act sinful is not only the act itself but also the motive behind it.

And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council.

"RACA" "Empty headed" Commentators have translated the idea behind **Raca** as "nitwit, blockhead, numbskull, bonehead, brainless idiot."


But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

"FOOL" *moros* MORON **"Raca"** expressed contempt for their **intelligence**. Calling someone a **fool** showed contempt for their **character**.


There are 3 tests to measure the proof of a genuine Christian: *the truth test*, **THE LOVE TEST**, and *the moral test*. If we believe in what the Bible teaches as true, if we show the love of Jesus to others, and if our conduct has been changed and is becoming more like Jesus, then our claim to be a Christian can be proven true.

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. *The nature of Christian love is that it acts, it gives, it expresses itself toward others. Fellow Christians in need should arouse our compassion and pity to the point that we act.*

John 13:34. "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another AS I HAVE LOVED YOU," Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus did that. Now that is love!

 Most people consider the first law of life to be self-preservation. Jesus teaches that the first law of spiritual life is self-sacrifice. He not only teaches us this truth, but he demonstrated it on our behalf.

My liver donor Bob . . . 3:16 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. This is **"CROSS-THINK"**. If Jesus went to the cross for me - then what can I do for the people around me? It's no coincidence that while John 3:16 tells us that God loves us - 1 John 3:16 says that since God loves us, we ought to love each other.

 **Philippians 2:3-4** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

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**.

The word for "**DEED**" in the Greek New Testament is the noun "ergon", which means "**work**" or "**action**."

John further describes how we should love: "in **truth**." His use of "truth" here is probably an idiom that means "**actually**" or "**really**."

R Kent said this, "**I sometimes think fundamentally some of us really would like nothing better in this world than to purchase a life membership in the 'ASSOCIATION OF BYSTANDERS.'**" We can't just give lip service to love; we must do something about it.

Too much talk and not enough walk... Show me! YWAM two fisted gospel... show and then share. Is it not enough to **believe rightly**. We must **behave rightly**. Being precedes doing, but all Christian doing must be based on being, that is, on who we are in Christ.

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once sent a one-word telegraph message to all his officers around the world.: "Others!" Army workers were known for the unselfish commitment to **others**. **On May 29, 1914 the Empress of Ireland sank with 130 Salvation Army officers on board. 109 of those officers were drowned, and not one body that was picked up had on a life belt.** The few survivors told how the Salvationists, finding there were not enough life preservers for all, took off their own belts and strapped them upon even some strong men, saying, "**I CAN DIE BETTER THAN YOU CAN.**" From the deck of that sinking ship they heralded their battle cry around the world: "Others!"

CHARLES SPURGEON, THE PRINCE OF ENGLISH PREACHERS, ONCE SAID, "AN UNCHANGED LIFE IS THE SIGN OF AN UNCLEANSSED HEART."

LOVE, AGAPE LOVE... GOD'S LOVE FOR US... This is the kind of love that's better than life, stronger than death, it's patient, it's kind, it always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. Agape love is unmerited, it's unmovable, it's unshakeable, it's undeniable, indestructible, secure, sensitive and straightforward. It's the kind of love that builds up, it seeks the lost, it befriends enemies, it corrects, it guides, it comforts, it reassures. In the simplest of terms and maybe most complete definition, it's the kind of love that says, **"I'll die so you can live"**

Communion . . . Spurgeon said, "Ah, Lord Jesus! I never knew Thy love till I understood the meaning of Thy death." The most astounding thing in all the world is the fact that Jesus was willing, out of love for us, to die in our place as our substitute."

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SAVED AND THE UNSAVED IS VARIOUSLY DEPICTED

Believing... unbelieving Saved... unsaved Christian... non-Christian

Saint... heathen Light... darkness Lost... found

Blind... seeing Bound... free Sick... whole Child of Satan... Child of God Out of death... into life!

The message of 1 John is that we are to **LOVE**. I read about an on-fire group of young believers in Germany that end each of their petitions to the Lord with, **"No matter the cost."**

A little extra for you wonderful home fellowship leaders. Love you all and keep loving the sheep God has entrusted to you! Pastor Mike

Gayle Erwin tells a wonderful story about a man he knew when he was a boy. The man's name was Jake, and he was the meanest, drunkest, man in

town. He would come to church from time to time, but that was only to beat up the elders. One Wednesday night, Jake came to church- but not to beat anybody up. Remarkably, Jake gave his life to Jesus. He walked down the aisle of the little church and kneeled down at the altar. The next night there was another meeting at the church, and the pastor asked if anyone wanted to share what God was doing in their lives. Jake stood up, and said: "I have something to say. Last night when I came here, I hated you people." Heads nodded in agreement. "But something happened to me and I don't understand this, but tonight I love you." And even though he only had one tooth, he smiled really big. This is a wonderful assurance that we are born again.