

LOVED TO LOVE

SERMON SERIES IN 1 JOHN

SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE: _____

1 John 3:11-24 // ¹¹ 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. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Loving the Unlovable

1 John 3:11-24

How do you love people who are unlovable?

I. The cause of hatred

A. The sin of Cain (v. 11-12; Heb. 11:4)

B. Objectification (v. 13-15; Matt. 5:21-22a)

II. The expression of love

A. The cure for hatred (v. 16a)

B. Self-sacrifice (v. 16b-18)

III. The need for assurance

A. A condemning heart (v. 19-20)

B. The source of assurance (v. 21-24)

APPLICATION GUIDE

1. Are people useful to you or beautiful to you? What is the difference? How does one foster hatred and the other foster love?
2. What opportunities do you have to disadvantage yourself to advantage others? In what ways are you disadvantaging others to advantage yourself?
3. How is your heart condemning you? Are you experiencing assurance from Jesus Christ? Why or why not?