



**“How to Love”**

**1 John 3:11-18**

**Perfect Love: The Book of 1 John**

**Introduction:**

1 John 3:11-18 “For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

**JUST LOVE**

**I. The Message Commands It (v. 11)**

- The Command is Fundamental – “For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning,”

We have been “Commanded to Love” (1 John 2:7-10; 1 Peter 1:22)

Loving one another is, has, and always will be an essential mark of God’s people (Lev. 19:18; John 13:34)

- The Command is Thoughtful – “...that we should love one another;”

Philippians 2:3 “...consider one another as more important than yourselves.”

**II. A Murderer Contradicts It (vv. 12-15)**

- Contradicts with Actions – “...Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother.”

Cain = world’s first hater. Hater-a person that simply cannot be happy for another person’s success.

“Do not be surprised...” All those who are in Christ will face trouble from those who are of the Devil. (John 15:18, 17:14)

- Contradicts with Attitude – “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer;”

The only difference between Action & Attitude is the outward response; the inward intent is still the same.

1 Sam. 16:7 “For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

The question is not, “What have I done?” but rather, “What do I want to do?” (Matt. 23:23-26)

### III. The Master Compels It (v. 16)

- He Showed Us – “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us;”

Jesus laid His life down (John 10:11-18; 15:13)

- We Show Others – “...we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

“Our feelings should be so formed and regulated that we may desire to devote our life and also our death, first to God, and then to our neighbors.” – John Calvin

### IV. Our Mission Calls for It (vv. 17-18)

- Don't be Stingy with Your Stuff (v. 17)

Stingy-having tight pockets; reluctant or unwilling to part with money or help someone else in any way.

Three Necessary Conditions for Helping a Brother or Sister:

1. I must have the means necessary to meet the need.
2. I must know the need exists.
3. I must be loving enough to want to assist.

- Don't be Satisfied with Your Statements – “...let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

True faith always produces fruit. (James 2:15-16, 18)

### Conclusion

Luke 14:12-14 “He said also to the man who had invited him, ‘When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.’”

Give and it will be given to you.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Talk about a time you had a hard time loving someone (could be past or present).
2. Have you ever had to bring healing to a relationship with another believer or between believers who were at odds?
3. What's the difference between hatred and murder?
4. Why is indifference to the needs of others such a common and dangerous sin?
5. What does it look like for us to be willing to “lay down our lives for the brethren”?