



## 1 John: Awakened to Love Derrick Shields “Our Birthmark” 10/30/22

**Key Verses:** 1 John 3:11-24

**Key Thought:** Our “birthmark,” which identifies us as a child of God, is true love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Points to Consider:

- As a logo identifies a product, birthmarks are commonly used for identification.
- Cain, who took the life of his brother, is an example of the *opposite* of love (Gen 4:1-12).
- Our understanding of love is epitomized in the death of Jesus—who gave his life so that we could have life (in contrast to Cain).
- We are instructed to emulate that love of Jesus.
- We can test our love based on whether we seek to help our brothers and sisters in need. (Positive examples within our community are supporting those impacted by Hurricane Ian and participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project).
- Presuming that we pass the test, we can know that we are at peace with God.
- We cannot transform ourselves, however; it is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to love.

### Discussion Prompts:

- What are we taught about love?
- Share stories of responding and *not* responding to the needs of brothers and sisters.
- Are you more of a life-taker (i.e., Cain) or a life-giver (i.e., Jesus)? Explain.
- Does considering the “birthmark” make you feel more reassured or disturbed? Why?
- How can we respond if we think that our “birthmark” might be deficient?