



Love Moves from **Heart to Hands**

True children of God don't just feel love—they practice love.

Introduction: Real Faith Shows Up in **Real Love**

John gives us two pictures—one of death and one of life.



01

Cain

A heart that leads to death.



02

Christ

A heart that leads to life.

The Old Message We've Always Heard: **Love One Another**

This command echoes Jesus' words as basic gospel truth.



Gospel Echo

This command isn't new. It echoes Jesus' words in the Upper Room (John 13:34-35). Love for fellow believers is basic gospel truth.

01

Illustration

Like wedding vows—you don't just say them once. You live them daily. Church is the bride of Christ; our love for each other proves we belong to Him.

02

Key Question

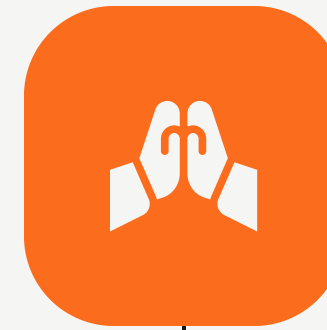
If someone watched your interactions this past week, would they conclude you belong to Jesus based on how you treat other Christians?

03

Don't Be Like Cain: **Diagnosis**

Unchecked resentment will kill fellowship with God and others.

Unbelief



Unbelief & Religion

Cain performed religious acts but trusted in his effort instead of grace.



Pride & Entitlement

He believed he deserved acceptance on his own terms.



Jealousy & Envy

Abel's righteous faith exposed Cain's unrighteousness.

The World Hates —But Love Proves **We Are Different**

Love for God's family is evidence we've passed from death to life.

01 Expect Opposition

Expect opposition from the world (John 15:18-19).

02 Assurance of Life

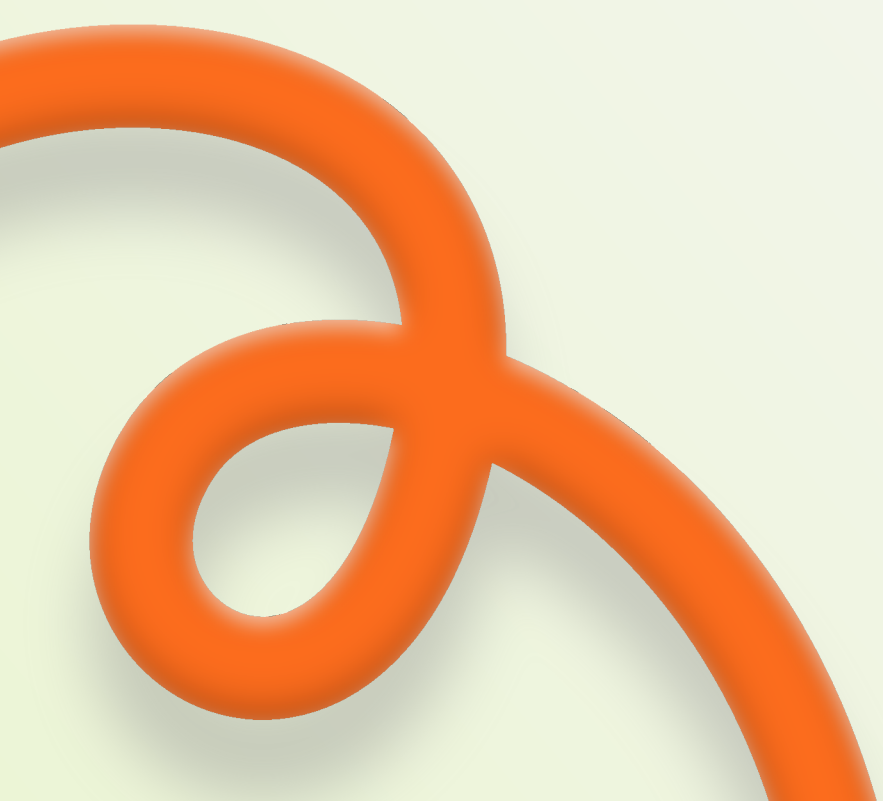
Love for God's family proves we've passed from death to life.
Habitual hatred means we remain in death.

03 Internal Reality

Jesus said anger in the heart equals murder (Matt. 5:21-22).

04 Illustration

Someone who chose love over resentment after church hurt
—and found deeper assurance of salvation.



The Positive Example:

Love Like Jesus



The Cross Defines Love

Self-giving sacrifice, not a feeling. Jesus laid down His life for us while we were still enemies.



Practical Love

Notice needs and act. Withholding compassion contradicts God's love abiding in us.



Quiet Service

The quiet church member who paid a struggling family's rent, brought meals, or listened without fixing—embodying Christ-like love without fanfare.

Love must be in deed and truth, not just talk.

The Gospel Connection: **Jesus Forgives and Transforms**

We can't manufacture this love on our own.

We can't manufacture this love on our own. Cain's heart lives in all of us. But Jesus—the righteous Brother—laid down His life for us while we were still in rebellion. When we receive His love, the Holy Spirit gives us a new heart that wants to love the family of God. If your life



This Week’s Challenge

Meet one tangible need in the church family.



Pray

Ask God to highlight one person (financial, emotional, practical, or relational need).



Act

Text, call, bring a meal, help with childcare, listen well, or meet a material need.



Fight the Cain Heart

When jealousy or resentment rises, stop and pray: “Lord, help me rule over sin and choose love instead.”



Accountability

Share your plan with a friend and follow up next Sunday.



Daily Prayer

“Jesus, move my love from heart to hands today. Make me more like You.”



Families & Students

Do a “need hunt” together and bless another family or the lonely person at youth group.

Conclusion: Choose the **Heart of Christ**

Let's be a church known for love in action.

Recap

Love moves from heart to hands. Cain's heart—unbelief, pride, envy, resentment—led to death. Christ's heart—sacrificial love—leads to life.

Never trusted Christ?

Come to the One who laid down His life for you.

Believer with a cold or Cain-like heart?

Repent and return to the cross. Let's be a church known for love in action—the world is watching.

