

DISCIPLES WHO LOVE GOD'S PEOPLE

1 JOHN 3:11-18

From Pastor Phillip

Do we really have to love God's people—including the ones that drive us crazy? According to Scripture, YES! Jamie Dunlop writes, "Love in the church is worship because it's a beautiful reflection of the one who showed mercy. Love in such a way as to demonstrate the wisdom and beauty of God's plan for your church." In other words, we should love God's people because God has graciously loved us and because God has wisely commanded us to love others.

I. Love One Another: Do Not Follow Cain's Example (vv.11-13)

- A. Worldly people are evil (v.12a)
- B. Worldly people are murderous (v.12b)
- C. Worldly people are hateful (v.13)

II. Love One Another: A Sign of Salvation (vv.14-15)

- A. Hateful people abide in death (v.14)
- B. Hateful people are murderers (v.15a)
- C. Hateful people do not have eternal life (v.15b)

III. Love One Another: Follow Christ's Example (vv.16-18)

- A. Love Sacrificially (v.16)
- B. Love Practically (vv.17-18)
- C. Love Sincerely (v.18)

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. In what sense are murder and hatred the same thing? What are some ways we can express hatred (see Matthew 5:21-26)?
2. Why should we not be surprised that the world hates us?
3. Have you ever considered that loving God's people is a sign of true conversion? Read 1 John 2:7-11 & 4:20-21. What insights do we glean from these passages concerning this truth?
4. Share some testimonies of how you have been encouraged by someone loving you sacrificially, practically, and sincerely.
5. How can you love a spiritual sibling this month following Christ's example?

FOR NEXT TIME— Read 1 Peter 4:10-11, Genesis 12:1-3, and Acts 13, *Disciples Who Love God's World*.