



Week 10 Study Guide

Read the text: 1 John 3:11-18

3:11 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.

Study the Text

- Make some observations...what jumps out to you? What are key words/phrases? Any repeated words? What questions does this passage raise?
- One of John's favorite phrases is "in the beginning." He uses it again in verse 11. Why does he continue to use this phrase; why is he using it here?
- Throughout the letter John has used contrasts. Why does he do this? What are some of the contrasts? What are the contrasts in this passage?
- Why does John use the example of Cain? Go read the story in Genesis 4:1-10. Why is Cain jealous? What is the progression of Cain's sin?
- Perhaps it is hard for us to relate to Cain's story. But what does John say about anger and murder in verse 15 and what Jesus say about it in Matthew 5:21-26? How are we guilty of the sin that was at the root of Cain murdering Abel?
- Discuss the statement: our lack of love for others and our hatred of others is one of the greatest signs of our sinfulness. How does our lack of love for others show our need for a savior?
- What is John's point in verse 13? How is that connected to what he just said about Cain?
- If hatred is evidence that we are spiritually dead, how does John make the point that love is the sign that we are spiritually alive?

- Discuss the following statement: love for others is the number one sign that someone knows God. Read Matthew 13 together.
- How is Jesus the opposite of Cain?
- How are we to love like Jesus? Consider what this text says in 16-17 and also look at Philippians 2:1-11 and Luke 10:25-37.
- Discuss the ways that you are often too self-centered/focused.
- How does this passage encourage you and challenge you (how do you see yourself growing in love and how do you need to grow in love for others)?

Prayer

- Praise God for his love
- Confess your lack of love for others
- Pray specifically for each other in how you can grow in your love

Mission

- How can you show love to someone this week that is outside the church? Who can you love by inviting them to Easter services?