



March 8, 2026

1 John 3:11-18

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

What are the signs of a TRUE believer?

1. Are you aware of your own sin/brokenness?(1 John 1:8-10)
2. Do you recognize Jesus for who he is? (2:1-2)
3. Do you obey His commandments? (2:3-8)
4. Do you hate others? (2:9-11)
5. Do you love the world instead of God? (2:15-17)
6. Are you abiding in Christ and His church? (2:18-24)
7. Practice sin or do you practice righteousness? (3:10)
8. _____

Agape, which is...

1. **Self-giving, sacrificial love:** A love that seeks the good of another at personal cost.
2. **Covenantal love rooted in God's character:** Love is not merely an emotion—it flows from God Himself (1 John 4:8 GOD IS LOVE!).
3. **Love demonstrated in action:** Love that requires movement, effort.

"Through the centuries men have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians... But there is a much better sign... that is the mark that Jesus gave to label a Christian not just in one age or locality but through all ages and places. What is it? The love that Christians show for each other." Francis Schaeffer ~ **The Mark of the Christian**

Practical "How To Love" Guide

1. Sacrificial Presence
2. Meeting Tangible Needs
3. Bearing One Another's Burdens
4. Forgiveness and Reconciliation
5. Speaking Truth in Love
6. Generous Time and Emotional Investment
7. Unity Across Differences
8. Praying for One Another