

LOVE ONE ANOTHER: THREE CASE STUDIES FEBRUARY 28, 2021

I. LOVE ONE ANOTHER: THREE CASE STUDIES

- 1 **John 3:11** For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

Case Study #1 - Cain

1 **John 3:12** 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.

A. *Do not be like Cain.*

- **Selfishness is the assassin of love.**

B. *Five Byproducts of Selfishness*

Genesis 4:3-5 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

1. **GREED**

2. **ANGER**

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let's go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

3. **JEALOUSY**

1 **John 3:12** 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.

1 **John 3:15** Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

4. HATE

a) *Hate is murder in disguise.*

Matthew 5:21-22 (NLT) “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

Matthew 5:21-22 (MSG) "You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill.

1 John 3:12 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.

b) *Whoever owns your heart controls your life.*

5. SUPERIORITY

1 John 3:10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

C. *Who is your Abel?*

Case Study #2 – Jesus

1 John 3:16 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.

A. *Love = Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.*

B. *is the example of love.*

- **It is Jesus, and not the culture, that defines what love is for the Christian.**

John 10:11 “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

C. *Sacrifice is the definition of love.*

John 15:12-13 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Case Study #3 - You and Me

1 John 3:16 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.

A. Love calls us to set aside our rights and desires.

- 1. Are we willing to deny ourselves to love another?**
- 2. What are we not willing to sacrifice in order to love another?**

1 John 3:17 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?

B. Love calls us to give of ourselves to meet the needs of others.

- What are we not willing to give of ourselves to love another?**

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

C. Love calls us to show and not just tell.

- What are we not willing to do in order to love another?**

1 John 3:16 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.