



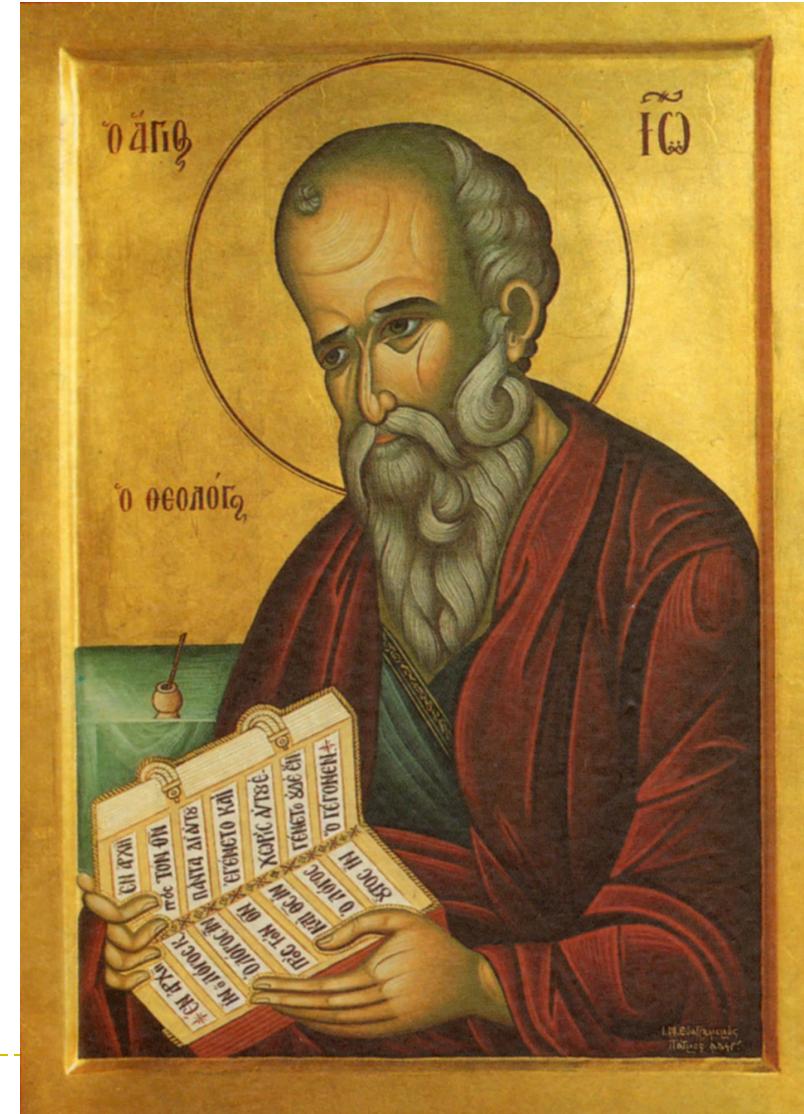
The Test of Love



1 John 3:10-24

John the Beloved

- ▶ Son of Zebedee
- ▶ Brother of James
- ▶ The Apostle of love















ST. JEAN IN MEZARI
THE TOMB OF
ST. JOHN

John's Writings

- ▶ The Gospel of John
- ▶ 1st Epistle of John
- ▶ 2nd Epistle of John
- ▶ 3rd Epistle of John
- ▶ The Book of Revelation (The Apocalypse)



1st Epistle of John

► Theme: Be confident in your salvation.

► Three tests of authentic faith:

Belief test: Who do I say Jesus is?

Ethical test: Am I living a God-pleasing life?

Relational test: Do I love others?

► TRUTH – OBEDIENCE - LOVE



1 John 3:10-24

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **19** This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:
▶

- ▶ **20** If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
- ▶ **21** Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God
- ▶ **22** and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.
- ▶ **23** And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.
- ▶ **24** The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.



Black and white

Contrast – 2 Types of People

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.

Children of the Devil

- ▶ Darkness
- ▶ Hatred
- ▶ Father – Satan
- ▶ Death
- ▶ Practise sinning

Children of God

- ▶ Light
- ▶ Love
- ▶ Father – God
- ▶ Eternal Life
- ▶ Practise living rightly

11. For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

- ▶ John 15:12 This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.
- ▶ Leviticus 19:17 ... but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.



Murder – the opposite of love

- ▶ ***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.***
- ▶ Genesis 4 Cain and Able offer gifts to God
- ▶ Able's gift is accepted, Cain's rejected
- ▶ Cain is jealous and kills his brother.



War between God and Satan

- ▶ ***13. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.***
- ▶ John 16:33 In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.“
- ▶ John 15:18,19" If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.



The Mark of the Christian

- ▶ ***14. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.***
- ▶ John 13:35 By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.



Hatred and Murder

- ▶ ***I 5. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.***
- ▶ Matt 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. 'But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.
- ▶ Matt 5:44 "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."



Christ's Example

- ▶ ***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.***
- ▶ John 3:16 - I John 3:16



Murder – Hatred - Indifference

- ▶ ***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?***
- ▶ The Good Samaritan
- ▶ Who is my neighbor?



► "The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people."

G.K. Chesterton

► "God teaches us to love by putting some unlovely people around us. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving to you." *Rick Warren*



- ▶ “God bestows His blessings without discrimination. The followers of Jesus are children of God, and they should manifest the family likeness by doing good to all, even to those who deserve the opposite.” *F.F.Bruce*
- ▶ “One who has been touched by grace will no longer look on those who stray as “those evil people” or “those poor people who need our help.” Nor must we search for signs of “loveworthiness.” Grace teaches us that God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are.”

Philip Yancey



Love requires action

- ▶ ***18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.***
- ▶ James 2:15,16 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?



How well am I doing on this test?

- ▶ **19 - 22 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.**
- ▶ Purpose of John's exhortation is to encourage us, not to condemn us.
- ▶ I'm not yet where I want to be,
but praise God I'm not where I used to be!



How Can I love like this?

- ▶ **23 - 24 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.**
- ▶ Abide in Christ – Filled with His Holy Spirit

