



Day 1

Sermon Sentence: Love is not an ingredient in Christianity, rather it is the very product of what Christianity is.

1 John 3:11-12

Cain murdered his brother in cold blood. It was the first murder ever committed since God had completed creation. Death is not always murder, there are several ways that death can occur. Even the death of humans in self defence and as a punishment for breaking the law is not considered to be the same concept as murder. So this makes the act of killing a fellow human deliberately for unjust reasons, whatever the reasons may be, a particularly heinous sin.

Revisit the story of Cain and Abel.

Genesis 4:1-8

- What was Cain's profession?
- What was Abel's profession?
- What are some differences you notice in the description of the offerings presented by each brother?
- What do we know about the requirements for offerings set aside for the Lord?
- Why do you think God rejected Cain's offering?
- What drove Cain to kill his brother instead of just doing what God instructed?
- Why did John use this example?



Day 2

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1 John 3:13-14

Does the world hate you? Chances are if you are following the Word of the Lord and trying to teach it to others, it does! If we find that we are too cozy within the world and there is no conviction in our hearts over sin, than we may have missed something. The world is full of things that are not from the Father (1 John 2:16) and if we are indulging in those things indiscriminately we are of the world and that makes us not of God (James 4:4). Those are some scary scriptures, right? It is good for the Christian to constantly take stock of the things that are important to them in their lives and test whether they are from God or not, if they are not from God they need to go.

- Does the world hate you, are people put off by your Christian lifestyle?
- How do you feel about your walk as a Christian and your level of interaction in worldly things?
- Are there things in your life that you feel convicted about as not being from God?
- What does John mean we have passed from death unto life?
- Atheists think that they know love, but John says they abide in death. Explain.



Day 3

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1 John 3:15 & Matthew 5:21-22

The Old Testament Jews thought that because they never actually murdered anyone that they were righteous in keeping the law. Jesus was teaching that the law required a perfect standard of obedience, so much so that the thought of the deed was equal to doing the deed itself. In the case of murder, Jesus explained that if you were even angry and harboring hatred towards your brother it was as if you were murdering them even though you hadn't actually laid a hand on them and this must be resolved before coming to the Lord. Jesus and John are saying the same thing, harboring hate towards your fellow Christian is not abiding in love.

- Why was Jesus trying to convince the Jews under the Old Covenant that they indeed were guilty of the sins they claimed to be innocent of?
- Do you find yourself harboring anger towards anyone?
- What must we do if we identify anger in our hearts?
- Why is anger a wall that prevents us from showing Christian love?
- John is referring to hatred without desire for love, do you see this in people within the Church?
- If two Christians are angry with each other to the point of contempt, what happens when only one is willing to reconcile? What must that person do regardless of the actions of the other?



Day 4

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1 John 3:16

Another really tough statement by John. John says that if we look to Jesus' example we will see that He loved us so much that He died for us, therefore we should love each other the same way that Jesus loved us!

Romans 5:6-8

Paul took this thought even further, explaining that not only did Jesus die for us, He died for us while we were still His enemies!

- Have you ever considered whether or not you would die to save a fellow Christian or friend?
- Now would you EVER consider giving up your life to save an enemy?
- Seeing the contrast between what Christ did for us and what in our hearts we are willing to do on behalf of others, can you relate to this kind of perfect love?
- Why did God die for His enemies? What is His hope in doing this?



Day 5

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1 John 3:17-18

Mark 12:41-44

Luke 16:19-31

Matthew 25:31-46

Charity is Love, as a matter of fact it is a synonym for Love used interchangeably in some Bible translations. Love must be a heart condition for a Christian and we should always be ready to give to those in need, even if it costs us to do so, because one of the very principles of love is self sacrifice.

- Do you give generously from the surplus of your blessings?
- Now compare, are you likely to give when you have just enough or maybe even not enough to begin with?
- Why did Jesus point out the widow's offering to the disciples in the scriptures from Mark above?
- Why was the rich man in Hell?
- What is the Sheep and Goat judgement about?
- What is the difference between the sheep and the goats that Jesus is illustrating? What are they lacking and thus are not of the God and can not enter the Kingdom?