

Study 5

Read 1 John 3:11-24

I. We are commanded to love one another (11-12)

Discussion Questions

1. Was John teaching them something new (to love one another)?
2. In what other Scriptures prior to this had it been taught to love one another?
3. Based on Scripture, what would you see are the central mark or marks of a believer?
4. Why is Cain given as an example here?
5. Does this just mean that love is not killing?
6. Then what is the point of this verse?
7. What motivated Cain to kill Able?
8. What motivates us to not love the people around us?
9. Can you give some examples in the Bible of someone who did show Christlike love to others?

II. Loving others is evidence that we have eternal life (13-15)

Discussion Questions

1. Who can give a brief summary of the reasons why the world hates believers?
2. From this passage, how can we know that we have been saved (14)?
3. Then by implication, what does it mean if we do not love?

4. Who is our brother? Why does John say the person who hates his brother is a murderer considering that no court of law in this world would convict somebody for hating his brother?
5. Does this verse indicate that murderers cannot be saved?

III. Love in action gives us confidence before God (16-22)

Discussion Questions

1. What is true love?
2. If we don't have the opportunity to really give our lives for others, how can we demonstrate this love?
3. What is the connection, if any, between loving the people around us and loving God?
4. Which of love's qualities does verse 17 highlight?
5. What does this verse tell us about God's view of our possessions?
6. Does verse 18 teach us that we shouldn't say "I love you" to others?
7. If not, what does it mean?
8. Have you ever felt upset that someone told you he/she loves you, but doesn't show it?
9. What are some examples of how we can love in deed?
10. What are some examples of how to love in truth?
11. What are the positive benefits for the person who loves others?

12. Compare and contrast the phrase “assure our heart before Him” (19) and “if our heart does not condemn us” (21).
13. Is verse 22 a guarantee to give us everything we ask for in prayer? What conditions are there for God answering our prayer?

IV. Believe God. Obey God. Love the brethren (23-24)
Discussion Questions

1. What is the foundation of salvation?
2. What is the result of this salvation?
3. How can we abide in Him?
4. Based on these verses, is the Christian life complicated?
5. But is it difficult? Why?
6. Why is it sometimes difficult to obey? To love? To believe?