

The Centrality of Christian Love

1 John 3:11 (LEB)

For this is the message that you have heard **from the beginning**: that we should love one another,

- To love is a message and a command (1 John 3:23)
- To love the Christian brothers is to abide in the light (1 John 2:10)
- From the beginning here means from Jesus Himself

Cain: Failed to Love

1 John 3:12a (LEB)

not as Cain, who was **of the evil one** and violently murdered his brother

- The Cain and Abel narrative illustrates the failure to love one's brother
- Cain is "from the evil one"—showing John's absolute categories
- "Violently murdered" is literally "slaughtered"

Evil Doers Hate the Good

1 John 3:12b (LEB)

And for what reason did he violently murder him? Because his deeds were evil and the deeds of **his brother** were righteous.

- Cain resented that God accepted Abel
- Envy is a root sin in the NT (Romans 1:29)
- Evil works are from the evil one
- "For what reason" indicates motive

Implications and Applications

- Christian love precludes envy
- We must abide in God to abide in love
- We must learn from the Cain & Abel narrative

Christian Love Precludes Envy

1 Peter 1:22 (NASB)

Since you have in **obedience to the truth purified** your souls for a **sincere love of the brethren**, fervently love one another from the heart,

1 Peter 2:1 (NASB)

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and **envy** and all slander,

Abide in God's Love

1 John 4:16 (NASB)

We have **come to know and have believed** the love which God has **for** us. God is love, and the one who **abides** in love **abides** in God, and God **abides** in him.

- This is true of those who confess Christ (1 John 4:15)
- "meno_" (abide) is found three times in this verse

The Lesson From Cain and Abel

Hebrews 11:4 (ESV)

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, **he still speaks**.

- It was Abel's faith that God commended
- Cain was unwilling to respond in faith to God's call

The World Hates Believers

John 15:18, 19 (NASB)

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

- The world cannot hate its own (John 7:7)
- Jesus' choice caused them to be hated