



That You May Know Series, Part 9: Want Assurance? Got Love? | John 3:11-18

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Intro: *'All you need is love!' to 'The Jesus Movement'*

The New Commandment: *"just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."* John 13:34. Therefore,

Love One Another, Unlike Cain- vs 11-12

"For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

The Contrast of Love and Hate:

This message of love from the beginning continues throughout the New Testament:

John 13:34; 15:12; 15:17; Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:1-2; I Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; Hebrews 10:24; I Peter 1:22; 4:8; I John 3:23; 4:7,11,1-12; II John 5.

VS.

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44

If You Are Hated, Don't Be Shocked- v 13

"Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you."

Instead:

"Do not repay evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. I Thessalonians 5:15. "... overcome evil with good." Romans 12:19-21

Love is Assurance- vs 14-15

"We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

CAUTION!: Avoid 'single-phrase' theology: *"God is love."* -or- *"Love thy neighbor."*

John **IS** saying: Consistent love lived out is evidence and brings assurance of your salvation.

John **IS NOT** saying: 'Love in your heart' gets you into Heaven.

"Love the brothers"- This is a priority. Love of God is followed by family, members of the body, and others. Galatians 6:10. Not excused from loving others.

On the other hand, hatred is the same as murder in the heart and lives characterized by hatred give evidence that they were never saved. Love and hate for others cannot reside in the same heart at the same time.

Follow Jesus by Giving of Yourself, Perhaps Die- v 16

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

Genuine love is not only expressed, it is demonstrated. God demonstrated His love for us by giving His Son to die in our place that we might have eternal life. John 3:16. Should we be unwilling to do any less? I John 3:16

Yes, But Will We Make the “Lesser’ Sacrifices? -V 17

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”

Greater to Lesser? If we say we are willing to die for another, are we willing to do the lesser things in life for others? See James 2:15-17

Love, Even Demonstrated, Must Flow from a Pure Heart- v 18

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

Truthful love comes *“from a **pure heart** and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”* I Timothy 1:5; see also II Timothy 2:22; I Peter 1:22; I Corinthians 13

For Consideration:

Is it important for Christ followers to express love to one another? If so, why?

How does John use Cain as a negative example and what does Cain represent?

In what sense does the world hate Christians and how does that affect our response to evil?

Is there anything wrong with sentimental love? How does it differ from love that acts?

Why does John refer to sharing *“this world’s goods”* rather than just spiritual support and encouragement?

How does what Jesus did for you affect how you love others in “lesser” ways with a pure heart?