

## Questions for Discussion and Application

1. Read 1 John 3:11-24 together.
2. Consider the commandment to “love one another” (1 John 3:11; John 13:34-35). How is our love for one another in the church a positive testimony to the onlooking world?
3. Consider the negative example of Cain (1 John 3:12; Genesis 4:1-10). How have you seen jealousy manifest itself in your own life? How have you dealt with it?
4. In verse 17, John questions whether a person has the love of God in him/her if he/she sees a fellow brother or sister in need, but does not share his/her material goods to meet that need. What do you think about that? Should we use that inaction as the basis to question someone’s love for God?
5. How can our church be a more loving, caring, and compassionate community? What part will you play?

Next sermon: 1 John 4:1-6

Drawing Closer: Fostering Fellowship with the Father (A Study of 1 John)

### “Christ vs. Cain: Election Day In Your Heart”

1 John 3:11-24

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#### 1. THE COMMANDMENT (3:11)

<sup>11</sup>For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should ***love one another***;

John 13:34-35  
<sup>34</sup>“A ***new commandment*** I give to you, that you ***love one another***, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>“By this ***all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***”

- a. The primary emphasis of the commandment is to love fellow believers.
- b. Our love for one another is visible proof that we truly are followers of Christ.
- c. Love is a choice of the will.

## 2. THE CONTRAST (3:12-18)

a. The negative example of **Cain** (see also Genesis 4:1-10)

<sup>10</sup>By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor **the one who does not love his brother**.<sup>11</sup> For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;<sup>12</sup> not as **Cain, who was of the evil one** and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

- Comparison
- Jealousy
- Anger/resentment
- Hate
- Murder

b. The positive example of **Christ**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**.<sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

- Compassion in action

## 3. THE CONFIDENCE (19-24)

<sup>19</sup>**We will know by this that we are of the truth**, and will **assure** our heart before Him<sup>20</sup> in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.<sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have **confidence** before God;<sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.<sup>23</sup> This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.<sup>24</sup> **The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him**, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.