

WEEK 26: DO YOU LOVE THE BRETHREN?
1 JN 3:10b-24

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Do you practice sin or righteousness?" 1 John 3:10 **By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God,**

NEXT TEST→ **“Do you love the brethren?”**

Evident who are the children of God→ he who loves his brother

Evident who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness and **who does not love his brother.**

Jesus charged His disciples: John 13:33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 5:5 and **hope does not disappoint**, because the **love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

I. LOVE’S COMMAND

- A. John states that Whoever **does not love his brother is of the devil.**
- B. Made this distinction earlier: 1 John 2:9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- C. 11 ¶ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another.**
- D. “message that you have heard from the beginning”
 - 1. **Gospel Jesus taught from the beginning**
- E. **God loved His children**, His family, the elect even **before the World existed**
 - 1. Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- F. **OT Prophets taught to love**→ Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.
- G. Love is key component of the believer's new nature
1. **Love is not optional**—it is an identifying characteristic of one born from above!
 2. Matthew 22:37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments **depend all the Law and the Prophets.**"
 3. Jesus states that **love penetrates every part of our being** as a new creature in Him and if we make it a prominent characteristic of our life, it will direct us towards holiness and obedience to all the Law
 4. **No one had taught or demonstrated love like Christ**—
 - a. **John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**
- H. **JESUS COMMANDED** → John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. . . . John 15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.
1. **Don't say you are a friend of Christ unless you love one another.**
- I. Paul-1Co 13:13 But now faith, hope, **love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

II. LOVELESS ONES

A. CAIN

1. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.
2. **God had obviously given instruction for sacrifices acceptable to Him**→ animals were to be sacrificed.
3. **Cain had a heart problem**— he did not love God enough to obey
4. His lack of love drove him to be overcome with envy, jealousy, covetness
5. His lack of love left him with no guard, no restraint on his heart when faced with God's accepting Able's sacrifice but not his own.
6. He was overwhelmed with hate!
7. V12 . . . **And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.**
8. **His deeds were evil because his heart was evil**
9. Jesus describing the unbeliever → John 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

10. The ultimate expression of hate (lack of love) is murder
11. Jesus said “if you hate, you have murdered in your heart!” Mat 5:21, 22

B. LOVELESS WORLD

1. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.
2. Jesus explained same to disciples
 - a. John 15:17 "This I command you, that you love one another. 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.
 - b. Commanded them love each other and also when they do, then **expect the world to hate you**
 - c. Jesus' point is that Christians must show strong care and affection to each other as they will NOT receive any from the world!
3. World will hate the “brothers” because their righteousness is an accusation against their evil heart→World hates the light!

C. 14 ¶ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

1. We know – GK word here “oida” → perceive by any and all of our senses, discern a fact
2. death →thanatos *than'-at-os*– **spiritually dead**→Eph 2:1 “**Dead in your sin**”
3. **But**→We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.
4. Believers heart and soul are regenerated– from dead to life.
5. Love for the brothers demonstrates that regeneration has taken place.
6. **Whoever does not love abides in death**– lack of love demonstrates lack of being born again, lack of being regenerate–still dead in your sin

D. MURDERING HATE

1. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
2. **HATING = MURDER in God's mind**--Jesus explained in Mat 5:20-22
3. **Hate dominates first and then can lead even to murder** as with Cain
4. Those that hate, **have the spirit, the mind or attitude of a murderer**– killing them first in your mind and heart and if acted out would lead to murder
5. Commentator Albert Barnes: *The private malice, the secret grudge, the envy which is cherished in the heart, is murderous in its tendency, and were it not for the outward restraints of human laws, and the dread of punishment, it would often lead to the act of murder.*

6. John nor Jesus is saying that one who hates his brother is guilty to the same level as one who commits murder.
 - a. But both are saying that the spirit that would lead to murder is present, and that God will hold them responsible for what is in their heart.
7. What a sorrowful declaration of mankind!
 - a. How many murders begin with emotion of hate?
8. God's grace not only restrains but effectually removes all these feelings and plants love in their place

E. No Time for Others

1. 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.
 - a. Again considering what Christ did for you– even while you hated Him, Rom 5:8
2. Christ love was sacrificial and so should the love of believers

F. Loveless Ones do NOT sacrifice

1. 1Jo 3:17 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?
2. John poses the simple, but qualifying statement about one who can just pass up a brother in need→ how does the love of God abide in him?
3. Rhetorical question because the answer is–NO, IT CANNOT ABIDE IN HIM!
4. **Recall that abiding refers to habitual living** → if the love from God is not manifested from your life habitually, then John's point is that you likely have never experienced the love of God in salvation.

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. How does the heart affect our actions?
- B. What evidence of hate do you see in the world around you?
- C. Why is love such and indicator of a true believer?
- D. What activities in everyday life "contradicts" love for the brethren?
- E. What activities in everyday life demonstrate love for the brethren?
- F. Does loving your brother mean you must give away all your goods? What does v 17 mean