

WEEK 27: DO YOU LOVE THE BRETHREN?
1 JN 3:11-22

I. LOVE'S COMMAND

- A. 11 ¶ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another.**
- B. **JESUS COMMANDED** -> John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

II. LOVELESS ONES

- A. **CAIN**->12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.
1. V12 . . . And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.->**His deeds were evil because his heart was evil**

B. LOVELESS WORLD

1. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

- 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. **Because we love the brothers.** Love for the brothers demonstrates regeneration
2. **Whoever does not love abides in death**- demonstrates lack of regeneration

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. 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
4. 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.*
5. 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.

2. **By this we know love**,→ IE you should know that this is a characteristic of a true Christian “you know that it is truth”
3. Believer’s love actually is displayed for each other →goes all the way to death
 - a. **ought to lay down our lives for the brothers**
4. Christ love was sacrificial and so should the love of believers
5. May not give up your life but should have an attitude that you would give up anything for a brother in Christ
6. Laying down life is more than just dying– sacrificing important things in your life
7. This is opposite children of the devil

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. Not typically called to lay down their lives, but there are opportunities in everyday life
3. Christian eyes and ears are open to listen and see their brothers needs and they give.
4. One who sees him in need and keeps walking, then it questionable that Holy Spirit of God resides there.
5. As the priest and a Levite crossed the road to avoid the man in desperate need so as not to get involved
6. In their mind or heart they murdered him!→ hated the sight of him!
7. Simple qualifying statement about one who can just pass up a brother in need→ **how does the love of God abide in him?**
8. 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.

G. Whoever has the worlds goods →refers to the wealthy ones who really do not share

H. May give money to a cause but for selfish reason. To ease their own conscience

I. For their own glory→ all motivated by devil

III. LOVING ONES

- A. **18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**
- B. **Little children**, love of others is not just lip service
- C. **let us not love in word or talk** →Talk is cheap–
- D. **but in deed and in truth.**→true love demands deeds, works,True love has action
- E. Jesus said, “if you love Me, kep my commandments”– love for Christ in action!

- F. Basic differences between Satan's and God's family
- G. Believers live out their faith and love; They pursue righteousness—they reject hate
- H. Love is not just an emotion in the heart→ it applies to the mouth, your hands, your feet→ your visible life

IV. **LOVE THAT AFFIRMS FAITH**

- A. **19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;**
- B. Times in every believer's life when sin can even cause doubt of salvation
- C. Every person has an inner conscience that convicts of right and wrong.
 1. Even the lost know the basics of what is right. Rom 2-
- D. Believer that sits under the preaching and teaching of the truth of God, truth actually informs their conscience and the conscience calls them to repentance.
- E. Our conscience is like God's fire alarm! You know the house is on fire, sin has come into your house – conscience is the alarm for you to put out the fire by repentance before the Lord.
- F. You will never lose your salvation but you will lose the peace of God that you have until the sin is dealt with– you must repent to put this fire out and reset the alarm!
- G. Reason to be in Word of God, to be taught only by the truth of God→the truth of God hones the senses of your heart and conscience.
- H. Holy Spirit in you will work the truth that is in you to make you continuously alive to the things of God
- I. **What can affirm our own salvation?**
- J. **shall know**– ginosko- future tense→something that is not innate but learned
 1. You will eventually know you are in Christ during times of doubt as you see your love for each other.
 2. You see that your heart towards others is changed
 3. You care/love for them in a way that was not there before Christ
- K. When you see this Christlike love develop in your life then you become more and more certain "that you are of the truth"
- L. You will never have the love John describes outside of being BORN AGAIN, being in relationship with Christ

1. Therefore when it is present→it gives assurance for the heart
2. Flesh does not have "sacrificial love"→ only conditional love
3. And those that have this love will always love truth

M. 20 ¶ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

1. God does not cause doubt in His people
2. Satan is the accuser of the brethren—he does it by magnifying their sin
3. Presence of sacrificial love counters doubt and God gives assurance by its presence

N. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

1. Again the presence of love for the brethren results in confidence before God because this type love is a of God
2. Holy Spirit's presence is what gives us the desire to love others like this
3. confidence before God – →freedom in speaking, frank, unreserved
4. before God – "against"→as face to face

V. Confidence in Prayer

A. 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

B. John 14:13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. 15¶ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

C. whatever we ask→ doesn't mean anything you want→but anything you ask in His will→ for His glory, according to His Word

1. we receive from him,→you now have confidence He will answer

D. because we keep his commandments

1. Presence of brotherly love and obedience to Christ should give the believer confidence before God to come before Him with our needs.
2. When we pray in obedience, and filter our desires to be according to His word, we are not only confident God hears and answers, we are confirmed that we are His child!

VI. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- A. What evidence of hate do you see in your own life?
- B. Has these verses given you more confidence in your faith? Have they convicted you in any way?
- C. What activities in everyday life demonstrate love for the brethren?
- D. What shall we believe about unanswered prayers?