



“Love One Another”
Wk. 8 of Light and Love - 1 John 3:11-18
By Pastor Jody May

1 John 3:11-18 ESV

Love One Another

¹¹ 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. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ 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.

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. 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? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

REVIEW:

LIGHT & LOVE

1st - Light - Truth that stems from Christ and is sustained in Fellowship with each other.

2nd - Love - Treasuring God and how we value each other.

INTRODUCTION:

Remember as a kid when your parents use to try and get you to eat something you thought was disgusting? How did that argument usually go? It usually started with an explanation of why it is good for you to eat, followed by the example of someone that benefitted from eating it. Needless to say, 99% of the time that psychological reasoning never worked on me, how about you? Then once we go beyond that point, it went into, you just need to eat it because I said so!

Well, I have to confess that didn't work on me either. Often times, as a kid, I was left all alone at the table in the back of the house staring at whatever I didn't want to eat and could not leave that seat until it was done. The only



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thing that ever got me to me finish what was one my plate was that I was going to miss watching something on tv that I wanted to see.

Today, we have reached a part in our letter from John today, where he has **set us down at the banquet feast of the Gospel**. He has placed in front of us something that isn't always the most pleasant thing to chew on, **loving another fallen human being**. Then he suggests to us today why loving one another is good for us:

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (It's good for you because of tradition!)

(And we're like) What beginning, where did this start, why is it good for you?

John 2:7 & 10 ESV

⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. (Loving one another keeps us abiding in the light, makes you grow up big and strong!)

We have gone from a suggestion in chapter 2 to a **command** that will be given **six times** throughout the rest of his letters (the others are found in 1 John 3:23; 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 5)¹. The first suggestion was describing what children of light do in Chp. 2, but then comes the commands for those still in the church that they are now to go and do it! (no getting up)

Now for those of us in here that have siblings, we can definitely see how this is no easy task. **Loving earthly siblings requires a ton of grace and mercy which we rarely have growing up.** That's why most siblings tend to like each other more the older they get, because they get some space between themselves, and there's less competition in the home for resources and favor from their parents. That's why as a parent, in a multi-child home, you can't ever take a break from modeling, training, and discipling your children into loving each other, for it is a **LIFE SKILL** they will need for the rest of their

¹ Kruse, C. G. (2000). *The letters of John* (p. 133). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.



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lives. Dealing with feelings over our siblings is the best way to learn how to live and love people in the church.

Today John has gone from a **suggestion to a command**. He is beginning the **discipline process** of molding us into the form of Christ by teaching us to love like He did. What’s more, we don’t elevate to the next phase of Christianity, we can’t get up from the table if you will, until we do this thing, because in Christianity there is only two things you are commanded to do: Love God with all you have and love others as yourself. So, John is going to spend a lot of time in the letter of 1 John explaining what that looks like for you and I since it is a command we cannot get around.

Main Point:

Sincere Love is not an option for Sincere Christians.

What I mean by sincere is genuine, the real deal, the authentic article. Sincere love, a true and gracious love, is Christ modeling, Christ elevating, and Christ glorifying. It is good for you, it will make you strong, and your big brother has loved this way first to show you the benefit of it, and you and I can’t get up from the kiddie table until we do it! So, today John has some simple directions in this first lesson on “**Love One Another**”, he has two don’ts and one do...

1. Don’t be like Cain and hate on your brother(s). (v.12)

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.

Cain, the first of all siblings, the flawed older brother, the first man conceived and unfortunately conceived in sin, born spiritually dead. Cain had a disposition that many of the first born in scripture had. **He was prone to a false sense of pride in oneself:**

Genesis 4:3-7 ESV

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD **had regard** for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and



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his offering **he had no regard**. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you **do well**, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

Cain’s love for God was not sincere like Abel’s. God had no regard, in the KJV it says **“no respect”** for Cain’s offering. Cain’s offering was given from a heart that was indifferent to God, so God was indifferent to Cain. Growing up as the firstborn of Adam and Eve has perhaps hardened his heart, perhaps he has come to believe it’s all his and not God’s. Whatever the reasoning is, it has caused him to have disdain for his brother. God loves Cain and gives him the same warning as He has given all, Cain love me, **do well, treat me rightly with joy in your heart, and all will be ok.**

Cain was a religious man, Cain knew what it was to make an offering to God, Cain had godly parents but Cain, in act of defiance instead of letting love in his heart, lets sin come in.

Genesis 4:8 ESV

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Morally good people, religious people, people who know how to do right can be extremely dangerous when it comes to their religious pride being hurt. The Jewish rulers were hurt by Jesus’ righteous living, and they killed Him.

Cain showed his spiritual connection to Satan by murdering his brother. The word here regarding Cain “slew his brother,” is the word sphazō (in 1 John 3:12) in Greek and let me tell you what it means. It means to butcher by cutting the throat. He slit his brother’s throat. It was a practice intended to cut the jugular to let the Life blood spill on the ground. As Pastor MacArthur put it, It almost seems like a defiance by Cain to God to say, “Is this what you were looking for?”²

² <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/62-28/true-christians-love-one-another>



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John has heard this warning before about pride and religious covetousness. In his Gospel he reminds us of the time Jesus was really jumping on the Pharisees as He was letting them know where this sense of self-importance comes from:

John 8:44 ESV

⁴⁴You 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.

Sin crouches at the door, temptation to hate on those that have what you don't by God's will. Jealousy that has blossomed when you see other Christians blessed when you yourself have worked so hard to get what they have attained by Grace. It's the kind of attitude that gets people focused more on perceived social injustices pointing fingers at other Christians rather than focusing on loving God rightly concerned about the sin in your own heart.

Family let's be aware that because of greed, jealousy, and envy – **things we are born with**, it will never seem to ourselves like we are as favored as other people in the church but let's remember the father of lies is looking to highlight that sense of injustice. He wants to pull us out of the family, and he is looking to destroy as many lives as he can in doing it. Let's not give him that foothold. And when you don't here's the second **DON'T in working out this Sincere Love you have been called to:**

**2. Don't be surprised when you are hated on by the Cains of this world.
(vs.13-15)**

¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

It seems that I see a lot of Christians getting caught by surprise when the world turns on them, when they are not liked for agreeing on certain issues in the public eye (like when you support a person's right for kneeling for the flag/anthem, but you are shouted at for declining on a COVID shot, when you support people being called the pronoun they want but your looked down on



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when you won't declare gender is a choice to your child). The world is a fickle lover and if you don't go along with all off its' impulsive desires it will turn on you. John is like don't be surprised by this! Surprised people react, they slide on their convictions, they want to capitulate to the desires of others too quick!

He gives another litmus test again and says look, if you love people in the church, the brothers and sisters, **FIRST, as I have commanded, ¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.** then you should **expect people not to like you.** They will hate you when you stick up for people you have decided to love, especially when those people don't go along with what the world wants them to do. Being hated by people like Cain, that don't like how you remind them it's not all about them and what they want and how they think they think they should be treated is a sign that you are actually loving people as you should.

Again, John knows this truth, he has lived it by this point, and again let me show you the warning that Jesus had given him during His ministry:

John 16:2-3 ESV

²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Brothers and sisters let me share with you this truth. If people aren't getting mad at you, about how you are loving God with everything you got and your neighbor as yourself, THEN you and I have missed something!

We have entered a time for the American church where we should not have a problem figuring out who's on what side. The churches that decide it is more important to stand on God's Word first, that above all won't interpret scriptures by the wants of man, that don't think the feelings of the world should not be the topmost concerns, when they say the hard things, when they live sacrificially because of Gospel convictions, when they portray the Bible as their ultimate authority above all THEY WILL / WE WILL start drawing the dire of those around us. We will make both the religious prideful types and the worldly secular types mad at us. And then you can feel good about it for God says you are standing up for the right things and the right people!



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Don't get distracted by who gets mad at you for Jesus' sermon on the mount spoke to that as well:

Matthew 5:22 ESV

²² But I say to you that everyone who is **angry** with his **brother** will be liable to **judgment**; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Don't worry about it and don't be surprised about people hating on you but instead remember they will face your Lord for judgment so pray for them, and practice some humility and pride in your office of being a royal priesthood ([1 Pet. 2:9](#)). Don't hate the player hate the game baby! That brings us to our **third action that all Sincere Christians must work out to accomplish this Sincere Love:**

3. Do practice the sincere love that Christ has epitomized. (vs.16-18)

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. 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? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

So, we get to this last point and the question arises, "What is Love?" You and I should want to know that if John's final admonishment for us is to love in deed and in truth. BUT John doesn't give us a definition but instead he paints a picture and that is to portray to us what type of love keeps us from hating like Cain and keeps us from being surprised when we are hated on.

He starts with the example of Christ and how He has laid down His life for us, and says **yeah that's what we need to do**. Again, John is not making this stuff up he is remembering what he has been taught by Jesus:

John 15:12-13 ESV

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

What is laying down one's life? (**John 10:10 the Good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep**)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.



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Next, John describes what he and Jesus meant by laying down one’s life in v.17. It is simply if you have the ability to do for a brother/sister when they need it, and you close your heart to them, then you can’t be God’s. That was happening in John’s day. Some of those that left were turning their backs on those in the church when they at one time called them friends.

Sincere Love is not an option for Christians, there is no plan B. To do anything else than be sincere, genuine, and act in truth with our family is to show you were never family at all. The late theologian Leon Morris pointed this out to me this past week. That there are two things we need to keep in mind when we want to practice this type of Christ like love for our family:

Application:

Love means two things here:

- 1. The readiness to do anything for other people.**
- 2. That ‘anything’ actually benefits other people.**

Conclusion:

Family are you ready today, to go the extra mile for someone in this room? Would you go that extra step if it made you uncomfortable, if it inconvenienced your lifestyle, if it meant that you might incur the hostility of this world? Maybe your answer is yes and that’s good. But the second part to loving others as Jesus loved them is loving them sacrificially in a way that benefits them.

When someone needs something, it doesn’t mean just throwing money at them all the time. I hate to use this analogy here because it seems trivial, but I think it makes this point most clear: ***“Give a Man a Fish, and You Feed Him for a Day. Teach a Man To Fish, and You Feed Him for a Lifetime.”***

Sacrificial love requires us to help people in a way that they begin to escape the quagmires in this world where they have gotten stuck.

Are we willing to sit with people and teach them how to budget when money always falls short?

Are we willing to mentor young people, have them in our homes, or are we waiting to hire a youth pastor?



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Are we willing to let people come over our house to let them talk about their problems or do we give them a name for a therapist?
Are we ready and willing to do things for people in such a way that they are benefitted from the church, and God’s name is glorified, because they have felt and received the love of Christ which is always a rehabilitating type of love?

CONCLUSION / RESPONSE:

Family, to Love one another to keep from being like those that have left the faith and are hostile towards us we have to remember:

Don’t be like Cain, work at keeping a humble heart and if someone has something you covet, repent for sin is at your door.

Don’t be surprised when the world hates you, for it hated your Lord, but count it all joy that you have been found worthy to suffer for His name.

Do practice loving people, with the readiness to do what it takes to not only show them you love them but that what you do for them benefits them in the long run.

Let me conclude again with this truth:

Sincere Love is not an option for Sincere Christians.

Make God help us all become sincere in our Faith towards one another.

Prayer

Communion

Benediction

Go in the name of the Father, that loving calls us again to do good and focus on loving Him, steering us clear from Cain like tendencies.

Go in the name of the Son, that epitomized what Sincere love looks lie by laying down His life for us.



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Go in the name and power of the HS, that transforms our heart so that we are ready and willing to love others in a way that is eternally beneficial.