

1 John Under the Microscope | Loving People

¹¹This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

1 John 3:11-24

Read 1 John 3:11-24

📍 Investigate:

Using the passage to the left, do the following to investigate the observable details of the passage:

- Underline references to love.
- Circle all references to hate in the passage.
- Put a box around the things we are to do in this passage.

🗨️ Analyze:

Analyze the details to find the meaning of the passage through group discussion:

¹¹This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 1 John 3:11

If the message to love one another has been said from the beginning, why did John need to review it? (v. 11)

How does this tie into Christ's gospel message?

Why is it essential that Christ followers love each other?

What does it do for us?

What does it say to the watching world around us?

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Read Genesis 4:1-15. Why did John contrast the love we are to have for each other with the actions of Cain?

Is hate from the world and love for our brothers a proof of salvation? (v. 12-14) Why?

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How can we lay down our lives for others as Christ laid down his life for us? (v. 16)

What can you do to love others with actions and in truth? (v. 18)

...at home

...at work

...with friends

What is the hardest part about doing this? What keeps us from loving others in action and in truth?

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How can active love help you to grow in spiritual confidence and hope? (v. 19-20)

Synthesize:

Synthesize the message of Scripture with life through application.

What is one application that can be pulled from this passage that applies to the life of every Christ follower?

Is there a relationship in your life right now in which you need to intentionally love them even though its difficult? If so how can you do this? What would help you do this more willingly?