**Support Notes from Donnie for 1 John 3:11-24**

**Bible Passage**

For this 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 and sisters, if the world hates you. 14We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing 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 and sisters. 17If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

19This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20If our hearts condemn us, we know that 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 keep 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. 24The one who keeps God’s commands lives 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.

***Teaching Points***

**Idea**

**Ask class members to brainstorm the proven fruits of conversion John has highlighted thus far.**

Fruits of authentic conversion – review

* Believe Jesus is the son of God
* History of displaying a repentant heart
* History of obedience to Christ
* You possess the DNA of a child of God

Chief fruit of authentic conversion of today’s lesson - True love for other believers

* Absence of hate for other believers
* Sacrificial giving to believers, even to the point of death
* Meeting the needs of the down and out
* Confidence of the indwelling Holy Spirit

**Further Points and Ideas**

**Verse 11**

You have heard from the first time you were taught the gospel the commandment to love one another. It is the ultimate command of God. God is love. The wide scope of our love is for all humankind but John is referring to our love for Christians in these teachings.

**Verses 12-13**

Do not be surprised if the world hates you.

* Cain hated Abel
* Jews hated Jesus
* Jew hated the converted Gentiles

False teachers would be an example of those who claim to be Christians but are not because of their hate of other Christians reveals so.

**Idea**

**Share examples of cult like leaders and how they have been evil towards Christians.**

How does the world hate us today?

**Verses 14-15**

If we have passed from death to life(genuine conversion), hate will not reside in our hearts towards other Christians.

* Love for the brethren is not the cause of salvation but the effect.

Hatred of other Christians is soul murdering. The sign of an unregenerate heart is an ongoing hatred of other Christians.

**Idea**

**Research examples of venomous Facebook and other online blogs and more where fellow “Christians” rip each other apart.**

Jesus always supercharged O.T. law

* Adultery to lust
* Murder to anger

What does remaining in death mean?

**Verses 16-17**

What does true love look like?

* Our actions not merely our words
	+ Sacrificial love, even to the point of death for our brothers and sisters
	+ Meeting the basic needs of the poor

The love of Christ cannot be equaled but can be imitated.

**Sacrificial Love**

I liked John Gill’s commentary on verse 16:

And we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren: not in such sense, or for such ends and purposes, as Christ laid down his life for us; for no man, as by giving his money, so by laying down his life, can redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him: but the meaning is, that saints ought to risk their lives, and expose themselves to dangers, for the sake of their brethren, when they are called to it, and the case requires it: as Priscilla and Aquila laid down their necks, or ventured their lives for the Apostle Paul, [Romans 16:3](http://biblehub.com/romans/16-3.htm); and they should also, when called unto it, freely lay down their lives in the cause of Christ, and for the sake of his Gospel, for the gaining of souls to Christ, and for the confirming of the faith of the brethren in him, as the apostles of Christ, and the martyrs of Jesus, have done; this is an argument for brotherly love, in the highest instance of it, taken from the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, than which nothing is more forcible, or can lay a greater obligation on the saints.

**Idea**

You could certainly check out some **Christian martyr websites** and share some inspiring stories of those who have laid down their lives for other believers.

**Meeting the Needs of our Brothers and Sisters**

As revealed in Acts 2:42-47

Lack of compassion unveils an unregenerate heart.

* He hardens his heart, turns away his eyes, and shuts his hand; has no tenderness in him for, nor sympathy with his distressed brothers and sisters

**Idea(s)**

* Ask folks for testimonies of when our church met their needs.
* Discuss the balance between helping that actually helps and those times when helping is actually hurting.
* Discuss what differing folks do for the homeless you see at intersections.
* Discuss our local mission partners and how believers’ needs are met through cooperative giving funds.

**Verses 19-24**

How can we ever be at rest, as sinful people seen through the eyes of a holy God?

We rest because:

* Our lives have proven our acceptance and sacrificial love of our fellow Christians
* Our experience of personal affirmation from the indwelling Holy Spirit
1. **opposite responses**
2. If you are swimming in self-condemnation (your heart is condemning you) with limited knowledge of your sin and its impact, consider God’s infinite knowledge of your sins and their impact yet He has pardoned you and relieved you of all condemnation. Trust his superior judgement and rest in that reality.
3. If you have confidence(your heart is not condemning you), then well done. God wants you to have that confidence since you are living proof, having loved others and believed in Jesus, the Messiah.

Consider reading **Romans 8:16** - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.